

STARS AND STRIPES®

Forecasters call for lesser punch from Chaba

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'Gloria' singer Branigan dies at 47

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Laura Branigan



Earnhardt Jr. dominates at Bristol

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Dale Earnhardt Jr.

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Convention draws GOP, protesters to New York

Kerry, Democrats talk tough against Bush administration Page 8

Rogge to Athens: 'You have won'

IOC president salutes Greece for 'unforgettable, dream Games'

Olympic coverage Pages 28-32



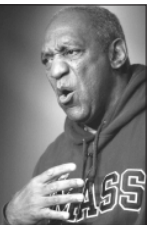
AP photos

Right: Fireworks are seen in the sky above Athens' Olympic Stadium Sunday during the closing ceremony of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Above: A dancer jumps over flames during the ceremony.



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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Accused Nazi guard: A federal judge Friday revoked the U.S. citizenship of a Romanian-born former member of the Nazi SS accused of serving as a concentration camp guard.

The government accused Joseph Wittje, 84, of Bensenville, Ill., of hiding his membership in an SS Death's Head battalion that guarded Sachsenhausen, a camp near Berlin where thousands were executed or died from starvation, disease and medical experiments.

The government contended that because the Nazi Waffen SS was a movement hostile to the United States, Wittje was not lawfully admitted to this country when he was granted citizenship in August 1959.

World

India missile test: India on Sunday test-launched a nuclear-capable missile able to carry a one-ton warhead, the defense ministry said.

The weapon has a range of up to 1,560 miles — easily within striking distance of any of India's near neighbors — and is designed to carry both conventional and nuclear warheads.

Somalia forms parliament: Somalia inaugurated a transitional parliament Sunday, taking an important first step toward forming a new government for the devastated country.

Leaders of Somalia's major clans have been meeting in Kenya since October 2002 in an attempt to end 13 years of fighting. They hope to establish the first effective central government since 1991, when warlords ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre before turning on each other, plunging the country into chaos.

Palestinian clashes in Lebanon: Armed clashes broke out Sunday between Palestinian supporters of Yasser Arafat and Islamic extremists in Lebanon's largest refugee camp, and officials said three people were killed. At least seven people were wounded when machine-gun fire erupted in the Ein el-Hilweh camp on the outskirts of Sidon.

Members of Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction, Palestinian officials said, battled those of the radical Arafat al-Ansar group, which is on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said fighting started when a



Gandhi's nonviolent message: Arun Gandhi, center, the grandson of Mohandas Gandhi, sits with Knesset members Haim Oran, left, and Yuli Tamir on Sunday prior to a meeting with the initiators of the Geneva Accord, an unofficial peace plan written in 2003. Gandhi arrived in Israel Aug. 24 for a weeklong visit to the West Bank and Israel, to float nonviolent options to end almost four years of fighting between Israelis and Palestinians.

pro-Arafat march reached a street controlled by Arafat al-Ansar. Members of the group opened fire in the direction of the demonstrators, killing Mohammed Ibrahim, a Fatah official, and his assistant, Mohammed al-Katout. A Lebanese teenager who was standing on her balcony just outside the camp was hit by a stray bullet and died, according to hospital officials.

Russian plane crashes: Russia must develop unified standards for airport security, the country's transport minister said Sunday, five days after the crash of two airliners believed to have been brought down by explosives.

The airliners, which had taken off from Moscow's Domodedovo Airport, crashed within minutes of each other on Tuesday, killing all 90 people aboard. Officials said traces of the high-explosive hexogen were found in the wreckage of both planes.

The statements that explosives apparently were brought on board planes at one of Russia's most modern and sophisticated airports indicated potentially large security gaps in the air transport network that knits the country's far-flung cities.

Transport Minister Igor Levitin admitted that there is no national standard for airport security.

War on terrorism

Threats against Italy: An online statement posted Sunday in the name of an al-Qaida-linked group pledged that the Vatican would be spared, but repeated threats to "turn Rome into hell."

"We declare that the Vatican will never be one of (our) targets," said the statement, posted on a Web site known for its militant Islamic content. Its authenticity could not be verified.

The statement, signed in the name of the Abu-Hafs al-Masri Brigades, repeated threats to ravage Rome unless Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government withdraws Italian troops from Iraq.

Several past statements attributed to the group have warned any target in Italy was valid because the government had ignored demands to withdraw its approximately 3,000 troops from Iraq.

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Sasebo spared Chaba's worst-case scenario

BY GREG TYLER
AND SHAREN SHAW JOHNSON

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Base residents concerned about Typhoon Chaba, due to pound Sasebo on Monday morning, got some good news from weather forecasters Sunday evening: The storm likely would hit the southern Japan base with only about half the punch one thought possible.

Chaba still would make landfall in Kyushu but pass east of Sasebo, not west, forecasters predicted. Sustained winds should peak at 52 mph and gust up to 69 mph, they said — a poor day for a picnic, but far better than predictions had the storm passed to the west. Had it taken that westerly track, the base could have been walloped with sustained winds of 98 mph, gusting up to 115 mph, stronger than any time in 60 years of recorded weather history available to the Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment in Sasebo.

The base entered into Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness One — meaning the storm was expected to strike the base within 12 hours — just before 10 p.m. Sunday. Typhoon Chaba was 305 miles to the southeast, moving to the northwest at about 12 mph.

"Confidence is extremely high that Typhoon Chaba will pass ... to the southeast of Sasebo," the NPMOD forecast stated early Sunday evening.

"It is still too early to determine exactly how close the storm will pass ... although destructive force winds of 58 miles per hour or greater are not currently expected to occur," the forecast stated.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center in Hawaii issues a prediction that echoed the local weather model: "A track west of Sasebo has been ruled out completely."

Still, Monday looked to be a bad hair day for anyone venturing outside. Base schools postponed the first day of classes, officials announced Saturday, school personnel re-

affirmed the school closure Sunday evening.

The Sunday evening forecast indicated that winds gradually would begin to decrease by late afternoon Monday with windy conditions (gusts 23 miles per hour or greater) ending by sunrise Tuesday.

After landing Monday morning over southwestern Kyushu, Typhoon Chaba should have weakened rapidly, forecasters said. They predicted it would move over western Honshu, Japan's main island, later Monday evening, passing about 13 miles west-northwest of Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station.

A greatly weakened Chaba was forecast to pass by Yokosuka Naval Base and Yokota Air Base on Tuesday. Both sites were in low-threat TCCOR Storm Watch Sunday, their respective weather forecasting units stated.

At Yokosuka, sustained winds of 40 mph, gusting to 57 mph, were expected from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesday, according to the

base's weather forecast recording Sunday evening.

Further inland, at Yokota, sustained winds of 35 mph, gusting to 46 mph, were expected Tuesday. "We'll probably stay in TCCOR Storm Watch throughout the whole period," a forecaster at the 20th Operational Weather Squadron said Sunday evening.

But the naval and air bases can expect a drenching. A Sunday forecast from the Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center at Yokosuka predicted heavy rain in times on Monday and Tuesday; the Yokota forecaster said, "We should get 1 to 3 more inches of rain" before the storm moves north.

Forecasters predicted Chaba would curve northeast, accelerating to a position approximately 397 miles north-northwest of Misawa Air Base by Wednesday morning.

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Base support group offers help for grief's effects

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — People here suffering from grief caused by losses such as the death of an immediate family member now have a place to turn for support.

The Grief Support Group meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the base's Community and Education Center. At the group's first meeting Thursday night, those attending learned grief is not only caused by someone dying.

"I can, of course, be the loss of a loved one," said Lt. Megan Miller, organizer of the group. "But it can also be loss of one's health due to chronic illness, the loss of a family member on deployment for months on end. A divorce. A retirement."

There also is a great deal an individual can do, she said, adding the first key realization for a grieving person is reality acceptance.

"Life is never restored to the way it was before the loss of someone close," Miller wrote across a message board in the meeting room.

Then, Miller added, "The purpose of grief work is not to 'get over' the loss, but to adjust to its consequences."

Miller, family practice manager at Sasebo's Navy Branch Medical Clinic, and base command chaplain Cmdr. Harvey Ramard discussed the idea of the group a couple of months ago.

"What's important is not that we attract classrooms full of people, but that people who find themselves suffering in this way have an outlet ..."

"What's important is not that we attract classrooms full of people, but that people who find themselves suffering in this way have an outlet ... and a group of willing supporters who understand what they're going through," Ramard said.

"I just began to see that there was a need for this in the community," Miller said after the meeting. "I have friends here who were suffering a great deal because of losses in their lives."

"What's important is not that we attract classrooms full of people, but that people who find themselves suffering in this way have an outlet ..."

Cmdr. Harvey Ramard
Base command chaplain

ple facing loss. I enjoy being there for them, so it has become my professional passion."

Also helping get the organization off the ground is Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron Thomas, an addiction counselor at the Navy Branch Medical Clinic. He said many of his clients "have a powerful, unresolved grief in their past."

Several years ago, Thomas worked in an intensive care unit, where some patients are not expected to leave alive. Thomas took care of those patients, got to know them as people and got to know their families. The experience taught him tremendous lessons about grief and the impact it has in the lives of survivors, he said.

One person attending Thursday has had a spouse deployed for at least seven months. Some of the symptoms the individual described are the same as those endured by people who've lost a loved one.

There are hundreds of family members in Sasebo with spouses deployed for at least the next six or seven months, Miller hopes these people come to the Grief Support Group meetings.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylberg@pstripes.osd.mil



GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Megan Miller of Sasebo Naval Base's Navy Branch Medical Clinic writes a key point on a board during the first meeting of the base's new Grief Support Group, which teaches participants how to cope with grief, whether following the loss of a loved one or other events, such as illness, divorce or deployment's effects.

Symptoms of grief

Physical

- Hyperactive or under active
- Feelings of unreality
- Physical distress such as chest pains, abdominal pains, headaches, nausea
- Change in appetite
- Weight change
- Fatigue
- Sleeping problems
- Restlessness
- Crying and sighing
- Feelings of emptiness
- Shortness of breath
- Tightness in the throat

Emotional

- Numbness
- Sadness
- Anger
- Fear
- Irritability
- Guilt

- Loneliness
- Longing
- Anxiety
- Meaninglessness
- Apathy
- Vulnerability
- Abandonment

Social

- Overly sensitive
- Searching for the deceased
- Slowed thinking
- Dreams of the deceased
- Sense of the loved one's presence
- Wandering aimlessly
- Trying not to talk about loss in order to help them feel comfortable around them
- Needing to retell the story of the loved one's death

Help through grief

Be patient with yourself

- Admit you are hurting and go with the pain
- Apply cold or heat to your body, whichever feels best
- Ask for and accept help
- Talk to others
- Face the loss
- Stop asking "Why?" and ask, "What will I do now?"
- Recognize that a bad day does not mean that all is lost
- Rest
- Exercise
- Keep to a routine
- Introduce pleasant changes into your life
- Know that you will survive
- Take care of something alive, such as a plant or pet
- Write a journal
- Be around people
- Schedule time alone
- Do not overdo
- Eat regularly

Source: Grief Watch, www.griefwatch.com

Talks aim at reducing Sadr City violence

U.S. officials, Iraqi Shiites hope to extend Najaf peace deal to Baghdad neighborhood

BY TODD PITMAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. military officials and representatives of rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr held talks Sunday aimed at reducing violence in the restive Baghdad slum of Sadr City, a day after clashes there killed 10 people, officials said.

British forces in the southern city of Basra, also the site of recent fighting, held similar talks with al-Sadr officials there.

Both areas had erupted in violence after U.S. forces and al-Sadr's militants began fighting in the holy city of Najaf three weeks ago, and the talks Sunday appeared to be an effort by both sides to expand on the peace deal that ended the Najaf crisis Friday.

An agreement, at least in Sadr City, remained elusive, however, with al-Sadr's aides demanding a U.S. pullout from the neighborhood, a condition U.S. officials refused.

Meanwhile, guerrillas launched an attack on the country's oil infrastructure in the south, blowing up several oil export pipelines and cutting al-Iraqi curbed exports to about 500,000 barrels a day, an oil official said.

In the north, insurgents ambushed U.S. troops with rocket-propelled grenades near Mosul, sparking gunbattles that

killed two attackers and wounded 34 civilians, the U.S. military said.

U.S. forces and al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia have been fighting for weeks in Sadr City, the slum named for the rebel cleric's father. Though peace descended on Najaf on Friday, skirmishes continued Saturday in Baghdad, with militants firing mortars and automatic weapons at U.S. troops and tanks in the impoverished neighborhood.

The head of the tribal negotiating team, Naim al-Bakhti, told reporters that all sides — including al-Sadr representatives — had agreed that damaged areas there be rebuilt. U.S. troops withdrew from the area except for their normal patrols and that Iraqi police be allowed to enter the slum.

But "there was no agreement on the Mahdi Army handing over their weapons," al-Bakhti said.

Sadr City police chief Col. Maarouf Moussa Omran said all sides agreed to observe a one-day truce until Monday morning to give the Iraqi government time to discuss the results of the meeting.

But Lt. Col. Jim Hutton, a spokesman for the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, said "there has been no agreement of any kind," adding that the talks were not negotiations.

In Basra, a British commander held talks with al-Sadr's top rep-



Workers try to contain a fire Sunday after saboteurs blew up a pipeline in al-Radgha, about 30 miles southwest of Basra, Iraq. Insurgents have launched repeated attacks on Iraq's vital oil industry in a bid to undermine the interim government and reconstruction efforts.

representative in the city, Sheikh Asaad al-Basri, and the pro-al-Sadr deputy governor, Salam al-Malik.

British Maj. Charlie Mayo, a coalition spokesman in Basra, described the meeting as a routine "interaction between the local

British commanders and respected tribal leaders."

The latest attack on Iraq's vulnerable oil infrastructure occurred Sunday when assailants blew up several export pipelines in al-Radgha, about 30 miles southwest of Basra, an official at

the state-run South Oil Co. said on condition of anonymity.

Plumes of black smoke billowed from the area as firefighters struggled to douse the flames. The pipelines connect the Rumaila oil fields with export storage tanks in the Faw peninsula.

Web site shows kidnapped Nepalese reading statement

BY RAWYA RAGEH

The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A Web site linked to an Iraqi militant group showed a video of 12 Nepalese workers kidnapped in Iraq, with one of them reading a statement warning workers against going to Iraq and blaming America for lying about security in the war-ravaged country.

The video on a Web site of the Ansar al-Sunna Army could not be independently verified. It was not possible to identify the men as the 12 shown in photographs on the same Web site when Ansar al-Sunna Army announced the kidnappings.

The group has been linked to past kidnapping claims.

The two-minute, 40-second video showed a seated man draped in an American flag and reading from a paper. He said the group came to Iraq under a deal between their company in Nepal and American forces, brokered by a Jordanian company.

The unidentified man spoke in broken English, mostly inaudible.

Arabic subtitles were provided.

"We are not the only ones who were cheated by America's promises to work with them," he said, surrounded by the 11 other hostages who were holding their passports.

Behind them was a black banner bearing the name of the group and the phrase

"There is no God but God. Muhammad is the prophet of God."

The speaker said each of the 12 men were offered \$2,500 a month to work in Iraq.

"The Americans assured us that the situation in Iraq is stable and not dangerous," he said. "America lied to us. ... The situation here is not under American control."

He warned others against coming to Iraq.

"We call upon those who want to come to Iraq not be duped by American claims," he said.

The 12 workers were kidnapped August 23, four days after crossing into Iraq. The previous Ansar al-Sunna Army statement said the men were subcontracted to a Jordanian company and worked for the U.S. military in Iraq.

Nepal — an impoverished South Asian nation — doesn't allow its citizens to work in Iraq because of security concerns. An estimated 17,000 Nepalese are believed to have slipped into the war-torn country from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and about 200,000 work elsewhere in the Gulf.

Scores of foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq in recent months by insurgents and criminal gangs seeking to extort money or pressure foreign troops and companies to leave the country.

Nepal has sent no troops to Iraq despite a request from the United States, but armed Nepalese personnel work for security firms guarding foreign contractors in Iraq.

Chirac: Hostages' release a priority

PARIS — President Jacques Chirac vowed Sunday to spare no effort to free two French journalists held hostage in Iraq by militants reportedly demanding that France revoke its law banning Islamic head scarves in schools.

Chirac said he dispatched Foreign Minister Michel Barnier to the Middle East to seek the release of Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot.

Turks freed by Iraqi militants

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Two Turkish hostages were freed by Iraqi militants Sunday, a Turkish Foreign Ministry official said, less than a week after the men's employers said they were ending operations in Iraq to save the lives of their employees.

The Turkish hostages — Ali Daskin and Abdullah Ozdemir — "were released. They're now at the embassy in Baghdad," Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Namik Tan told The Associated Press.

The two men were kidnapped from a construction site in Iraq.

From The Associated Press

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Soldier: Abuse encouraged in Abu Ghraib

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Staff Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick, who last week agreed to plead guilty to some charges in the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal, said in an interview published Sunday that "secret services" operating in the jail encouraged the humiliation of prisoners.

But Frederick said he was taking responsibility for what he had done and urged other defendants to do the same.

"I will answer for my acts in court, but I hope that others will take my example and take responsibility for their guilt — there are certainly more people responsible for what happened in Abu Ghraib and many of them are not yet charged," Frederick said in the interview with Der Spiegel magazine.

The interview was conducted last week in Mannheim, where Frederick told a military court he would plead guilty at a hearing in Baghdad in October.

Frederick, a corrections officer in Buckingham, Va., told Der Spiegel that the abuse was already going on at Abu Ghraib when his unit arrived there, and that they were told that was the way military intelligence wanted it done.

"The people from the secret services were always praising us — they said 'do more like that, you're doing good work,'" Frederick

said in the interview, published in German. "The secret services had simply set no boundaries. They were looking for concrete results and were not interested in how they were achieved."

"They said 'put the dogs on these prisoners, try to get more information from them, take their food away, their clothes — humiliate them,'" he told the magazine in a German-language report.

An Army investigation released last week said an unidentified civilian contractor worked with and encouraged abuse by Frederick.

Frederick and five other military police currently face charges in the Abu Ghraib case, while a seventh has pleaded guilty and is serving one year in prison. Their defense attorneys have maintained that they were following the direction of civilian contractors and military intelligence in carrying out the abuse.

Frederick is charged with maltreating detainees, conspiracy to maltreat detainees, dereliction of duty and wrongfully committing an indecent act and has not said specifically which counts he will plead guilty to.

During the three days of hearings in Mannheim, prosecutors said at least two military intelligence soldiers would soon be charged and the judge suggested he may force key military intelligence officers to testify, broadening the scope of the prison scandal beyond the 372nd Military Police Company, an Army reserve unit from Maryland to which all soldiers facing charges so far were assigned.



Frederick

Iraq envoy arrives in Iran to pave way for Allawi's visit

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iraq's deputy prime minister visited Tehran on Sunday in what appeared to be an attempt at fence-mending between the former enemies whose relations have been bruised by growing Iraqi allegations that Iran is supporting the insurgency in Iraq. Barham Saleh arrived with the interior and transportation ministers on the first direct flight between Baghdad and Tehran in 25 years. Saleh is scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi.

"I am carrying the friendship message of the Iraqi government and nation for the Iranian government and people," the official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Saleh as saying.

Tension has been rising between

Iraq and former foe Iran. Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan went so far as to describe Iran as Iraq's "first enemy."

Iraq officials have accused Tehran of backing insurgents and a Shiite militia in Iraq in an attempt to influence the political process there — a charge that Iran has denied.

Relations also have soured with the unexplained disappearance of several Iranians inside Iraq.

Saleh said Iraqi officials wanted to stress "the strengthening of brotherly ties between the two countries."

According to Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi, talks will focus on the cases of Farioud Jihani, the Iranian consul to Karbala, Iraq, who was kidnapped by militants three weeks ago, and other missing Iranian nationals in Iraq.

IN THE WORLD



Afghan police officers gather at the scene of an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday.

Afghan blast kills 2 Americans

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A powerful explosion tore through the office of a U.S. security contractor in the Afghan capital of Sunday, killing seven people, including two Americans, officials and witnesses said.

The explosion hit the office of DynCorp Inc., an American firm that provides security for Afghan President Hamid Karzai and works for the U.S. government in Iraq, said Nick Downie of the Afghanistan NGO Security Office.

The explosion, which occurred in front of the Kabul office of an international security company, killed at least seven people, Karzai's office said in a statement. "Two Americans, three Nepalese and two Afghan nationals, including a child, have been confirmed dead."

Karzai and U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad ex-

pressed shock at the attack.

An embassy statement said the contractor was also involved in a project to train Afghan police.

"This cowardly attack will not deter U.S. participation in the ongoing effort to help Afghanistan stand on its own feet," Khalilzad said, expressing sympathy for the victims of a "terrorist attack."

Downie said he and others at the scene pulled five or six seriously injured people — including other apparent U.S. citizens — from the building.

"Some were obviously DynCorp staff," he said.

DynCorp Inc. is a division of Computer Science Services, Inc., based in El Segundo, Calif.

Meanwhile, another explosion ripped through a school in southeastern Afghanistan, killing nine children and one adult, the U.S. military said Sunday.

Israel denies tie to alleged Pentagon spy

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli officials predicted Sunday that allegations that the government spied on the Pentagon would be proven untrue, but analysts said damage to the image of Israel and its lobbying ally in Washington had already been done.

American officials said Saturday that the FBI has spent more than a year investigating whether a Pentagon analyst funneled highly classified material to Israel.

The material described White House policy toward Iran, Israel says Iran — and its nuclear ambitions — pose the greatest single threat to the Jewish state.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office issued a denial late Saturday, saying "Israel does not engage in intelligence activities in the U.S."

Natan Sharansky, the first Israeli Cabinet minister to speak in

public about the matter, told Canadian Broadcasting Corp. television that Israel enforces a ban on spying in the United States.

"I hope it's all a mistake or misunderstanding of some kind, maybe a rivalry between different bodies," he said, singling out "the Pentagon and the CIA."

The scandal dominated Israeli newspapers and radio reports Sunday. In numerous interviews, both current and former Israeli intelligence officials said it was highly unlikely that Israel would have to spy on the U.S. government.

They pointed to close ties between the U.S. and American intelligence communities. They also said there has been a strict ban on espionage against U.S. targets since the 1985 arrest of American naval analyst Jonathan Pollard for passing on secrets to Israel. Pollard is serving a life sentence. Israeli legislator Ehud

Yatom, chairman of the parliamentary subcommittee on covert intelligence, said he expected the allegations to be quickly withdrawn.

"I imagine that within a few days the United States will come out with an announcement that Israel has no connection whatsoever with the supposed spy and his activities," he told the radio.

The U.S. investigation centers on whether a Pentagon analyst passed classified material about Iran to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the influential main Israeli lobbying organization in Washington, and whether that group in turn passed them on to Israel. Both AIPAC and Israel deny the allegations.

U.S. officials identified the analyst as Larry Franklin, an Iran specialist working under Douglas J. Feith, a top Pentagon official with close ties to Israel. Franklin did not respond to a message left at his office.

people below, around 2 a.m. Sunday.

"The balcony had many more people than the structure of the place would support," said municipal guard Luciano da Zaporoli.

Authorities were still investigating details of the incident at the nightclub in the Guarulhos neighborhood, near Sao Paulo's international airport.

From The Associated Press

Russian-backed official leads in vote to replace slain Chechen president

By MIKE ECKEL

The Associated Press

GRÖZNY, Russia — The Russian government's choice for president of war-ravaged Chechnya appeared to be the victor Sunday in an election tainted by charges of fraud and shadowed by last week's terrorist destruction of two airliners.

Little more than two hours after polls closed, acting Chechen president Sergei Abramov said preliminary results showed Maj. Gen. Alkhanoev, the republic's top police official and the Russian government's new choice, had passed the 50-percent mark needed to win, the Interfax news agency reported.

Violence shadowed the balloting. A man blew himself up near a polling station after trying to enter it carrying a package, officials said. Worries about terrorism were stoked by the crashes of

two Russian airliners five days before the election, officials said traces of explosives were found in the wreckage, and there are suspicions two Chechen women conducted the suicide attacks.

Seven candidates contended to replace the previous Kremlin-backed Chechen president, Akhmad Kadyrov, who was assassinated in May. But six were seen as having little chance against Alkhanoev.

Candidate Abdullah Bagayev said he had formally complained to election officials after seeing several violations, including an Alkhanoev campaign worker who ordered people to vote for him at a polling station. The election is part of the Kremlin's strategy to try to undermine support for separatist rebels who have been fighting Russian forces for nearly five years by inducing a sense of civil order in the republic.

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Brazil balcony collapse

SAO PAULO, Brazil — A balcony collapse killed six people and injured at least 117 at a crowded Sao Paulo nightclub that featured male strippers, police said.

An interior balcony at the Ladies First nightclub collapsed under the weight of customers, crushing

Porn the new plague in conservative China

BY JOHN M. GLIONNA

Los Angeles Times

BELING — The pregnant woman slices through the crowd on a busy sidewalk.

"Yellow movie," she whispers to two passing men — the Chinese slang for pornography. Holding her belly, she guides them to a grassy area, lifting a clump of sod to reveal several knockoff discs from the United States and Japan.

Her eyes darting for police, she makes the sale: 20 yuan, or about \$2.40, for two video compact discs. Then, as quickly as she appeared, the soon-to-be mom is gone.

In cities across China, women hustle porn on pedestrian overpasses and at tunnel entrances. Many are pregnant; others carry 1-year-olds often rented for as little as a dollar a day. The babies are both props and shields: They enable buyers immediately to identify the sellers, and the women exploit a loophole in Chinese criminal law that allows for only a brief detainment of pregnant women or those with infants.

In recent years, the government has taken a comparatively lax enforcement approach to sexually explicit movies, magazines and Internet images, all of which are illegal here.

This summer, however, frustrated government officials took new steps in dealing with the burgeoning pornography problem, launching a nationwide crackdown on the sale of so-called yellow discs and the operation of pornographic Web sites. President Hu Jintao, calling for a people's war against such "contaminated material," pledged to punish pornography purveyors severely.

"This is China's new big problem," said a Beijing official familiar with the anti-porn crusade. "Many people consider pornography the nation's No. 1 social ill, even more so than gambling and drugs. It's become that serious."

The crusade is the newest tactic waged by an authoritarian government frustrated by an American Summer of Love-style sexual revolution that has swept across China.

Only a generation removed from a time when writing a love letter was grounds for punishment, China's airwaves are now awash with "sex talk" radio shows. Graphic sex novels such as "Breakup Dawn" and "Happiness That Lasts Half-Day Long" have become bestsellers.

China's new sexuality has come at a price: Along with the spread of HIV and AIDS, the popularity of

pornography among youth has alarmed Communist Party officials at the Internet cafes that serve China's 90 million online users. Many of them have personal computers and cell phone screens featuring soft-porn images.

This appetite has spawned a growing underground industry.

In the latest case of its kind in China, 16 people in the southern province of Guangdong were tried this spring for distributing 4.4 million pirated pornographic discs nationwide. Beijing police recently closed the capital's biggest pirated porn video store, confiscating thousands of X-rated discs from an operator who admitted serving hundreds of regular customers.

People convicted of running prostitution rings have been executed, and in the late 1980s a man was put to death for selling X-rated pictures taken of himself and his wife, a Beijing city official acknowledged.

An editorial last year in the state-run media applauded plans by the government to raid residences to search for pornographic video compact discs, saying the move would bring the war against pornography "to the next level." The only concern, the editorial said, was the campaign's effect on privacy.

The trend worries some human rights scholars.

"Human rights are more than protection against arrest and torture without due process — they also include being free to watch movies of any kind," said Roger Pilon, vice president for legal affairs at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank in Washington.

"If an authoritarian regime like China is willing to raid people's homes for watching pornography, an action that goes to the most innocent of behaviors, then we know they're prepared to do much more."

Li Yinhe, a Cambridge, England-trained sociologist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences who is considered the nation's leading sexologist, said the growing popularity of pornography is part of the new China's search for sexual freedom.

She pointed to signs everywhere: A recent study at Zhejiang University near Shanghai showed that more than 60 percent of students were tolerant of homosexuality. And a government study found that 90 percent of young urban couples admitted to having sex before they were married.

Sociologists say China was open about sex until the Tang dynasty — which lasted until A.D. 907. For the next 1,000 years, the culture adopted a more straight-laced Confucian ethic about sex. Although Shanghai became known for its sexual mystique during the 1920s, the Communist Party returned China to an era of taboo — especially during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution forcing people to wear drab, unisex clothes.

Now, Li says, Chinese history has come full circle. Young people often kiss and grope in public. These with money check into hotels for what was once only a Western practice: the one-night stand.

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IN THE STATES



Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry speaks at a rally in Tacoma, Wash., on Saturday.

Kerry, Democrats take aim at Bush

BY COLLEEN MCCAIN NELSON
The Dallas Morning News

TACOMA, Wash. — The spotlight will be trained on Republicans this week, but John Kerry and his surrogates launched a pre-emptive strike against the president Saturday.

Retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark called George Bush incompetent and indecisive. And Kerry said the president's administration amounted to little more than a slew of slogans.

Kerry appealed to the party faithful in this divided but Democratic-leaning state to keep working on his behalf.

"This is the most important election of our lifetimes," the Democratic presidential candidate said. "Everything that matters to you is on the line."

Thousands rallied at the Tacoma Dome, where the Massachusetts senator continued to lay out his plans to improve the economy. Kerry promised voters jobs and insurance, saying that affordable health care is not a "go-go, do-gooder, wacky kind of idea."

He had spent the last week working to shift the campaign story line from his military service to his plans to help the middle class. But on Saturday, Kerry and the veterans who took the stage with him had some tough talk for those who would doubt his heroism.

"I think it's outrageous that the

president of the United States can question the medals and the service and the valor of American veterans who have served," said Clark, a former Democratic presidential candidate.

Bush has said Kerry served honorably and has denied any ties to the group of Vietnam veterans attacking Kerry's military record.

"We say to George Bush, 'Enough is enough,'" Clark said. "You want to match early records of service? Throw it open to the public."

Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt called Clark's comments a baseless attack.

"John Kerry keeps trying to divide America over the past," he said. "His hypocrisy, combined with his vacillation and indecision regarding the war on terror are one reason he has a growing credibility problem with the American people."

Jim Rassmann, the soldier Kerry rescued from a Vietnam river, came to the senator's defense, calling him courageous and trustworthy. When the crowd began to boo at the mention of Kerry's detractors, Rassmann said, "No, don't do that. ... They're misguided, but they served bravely."

Kerry made no mention of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. But he told the crowd, "I defended this country as a young man, and I will defend it as president of the United States."

Bush readies for kickoff of Republican convention

Protesters march in New York as delegates gather

BY TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched past Madison Square Garden, site of the Republican National Convention, on Sunday, chanting, blowing whistles and carrying anti-war banners as delegates gathered to nominate President Bush for a second term.

On the eve of the convention, the demonstrators packed the street from sidewalk to sidewalk for 20 blocks as they slowly filed past.

"Hope is in the air, help is on the way," civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said through a bullhorn.

On the other side of New York Harbor, Vice President Dick Cheney told a rally on Ellis Island that Bush was "exactly the leader we need for these times, and we need him for the next four years."

With the New York skyline as the background, Cheney said it was "a special honor to kick things off here on this island, the gateway to America for so many people."

Meanwhile, Bush suggested in an interview with Time magazine that he still would have gone into Iraq but with different tactics if he had known "that an enemy that should have surrendered or been done in escaped and lived to fight another day."

He called the swift military offensive that led to the fall of Baghdad in April 2003 "a catastrophic success" in light of the fact that fighting continues to this day despite the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's government.

That brought an immediate response from Democratic vice presidential nominee John Edwards.

"President Bush now says his



Mock coffins signifying U.S. soldiers who have died in Iraq are carried Sunday during a protest march headed toward New York City's Madison Square Garden, where the Republican National Convention was to start Monday. Sunday's demonstrations drew tens of thousands of protesters.

Iraq policy is a catastrophic success. He's half right. It was catastrophic to rush to war without a plan to win the peace," Edwards said.

Preconvention polls showed the presidential race evenly split between Bush and Democrat John Kerry, although the challenger has lost ground since his convention in Boston a month ago. The four-day Republican meeting opens Monday.

The demonstrators took their protests of Bush's foreign and economic policies to the fortified streets of midtown Manhattan, swarming up Seventh Avenue past the convention site shouting "No more Bush."

"The majority of this country wants the Bush administration out of office," filmmaker and Bush critic Michael Moore told the crowd. A large banner said, "Save America. Defeat Bush." People poked their heads out of apartment windows to watch the marchers in the sweltering heat.

About 45 protesters on bicycles were detained and bound with plastic handcuffs just off the march route, police said. More than 300 people had been arrested through Saturday night for disorderly conduct and convention-related incidents.

Bush went to church Sunday morning, rode his mountain bike and was flying later to Wheeling, W.Va., for a rally. He was campaigning in battleground states as he makes his way to this overwhelmingly Democratic convention city.

Kerry was spending the day at his beachfront home in Nantucket, Mass.

Former President Clinton, speaking in New York City at the interdenominational Riverside Church, asserted that religious faith was "not the exclusive province of the right wing."

"The religious right has tried to turn all of us, in disagreeing with them, into two-dimensional cartoons," Clinton said.

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Paul Williams of Charleston, S.C., secures a friend's boat at the Charleston City Marina as Tropical Storm Gaston approached Saturday.

Storm Gaston drops rain, high winds in S. Carolina

BY BRUCE SMITH
The Associated Press

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. — Tropical Storm Gaston sloshed ashore in South Carolina Sunday, spinning sheets of rain and near hurricane-force winds as it uprooted trees, flooded roads and knocked out power to at least 125,000 homes.

Gov. Mark Sanford declared a state of emergency as the storm moved inland and encouraged "folks to stay in their homes for the time being so that damage assessment crews, utility truck

crews and debris removal crews can do their jobs."

The storm made landfall at Bulls Bay near McClellanville, just a few miles from where Hurricane Charley made a second landfall after devastating southwest Florida earlier this month.

As much as eight inches of rain had fallen along some parts of the coast by midday, and a flash flood watch was in effect.

Steady sheets of rain fell in Mount Pleasant hours after the eye of Gaston came ashore. Tree limbs littered flooded roadways, some of which were impassable.

Palmettos planted earlier this year on a new boulevard were pushed to the pavement, and road signs twisted in the wind.

Across the harbor in Charleston, Gaston flooded streets and pushed over power poles. At least 75,000 people were without power at the height of the storm.

"The best advice for everyone is to stay put, don't go out please," said Charleston's mayor, Joseph P. Riley Jr. "This will be past us quickly and let's just stay out of harm's way and get it behind us."

By midday, the storm was moving north about 8 mph toward inland South Carolina, weakening along the way but still prompting flood watches and warnings of wind gusts as high as 60 mph.

The rain along the coast was tapering off, although blustery winds still raked the coastline near Charleston and intersections throughout the area had no traffic lights.

"The important thing is that we don't have any false sense of safety that it's all over," Riley said. "We have downed trees and often times there are power lines under those downed trees."

Charleston County officials said there was only one initial report of a serious injury — a resident hurt when a tree fell on a home.

"It just goes to show that the residents took the proper precautions that they needed to take and shows they were prepared," said Roland Windham, the Charleston County administrator. "We hope we don't experience any more injuries during the cleanup. That's typically when you see a lot of injuries occur."

Residents in low-lying areas in Charleston and Georgetown counties were urged to move to higher ground before the storm hit.

Authorities also asked people living in mobile homes to evacuate.

Toy depicting 9/11 finds way to stores

BY ADRIAN SAINZ
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Small toys showing an airplane flying into the World Trade Center were packed inside some of more than 14,000 bags of candy bound largely for small groceries around the country before being recalled.

Lisy Corp., the wholesaler that distributed the candy, said Friday that the toys were purchased in bulk from a Miami-based import company.

The toys came in an assortment purchased sight unseen from L&M Import in Miami and included the toys depicting the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the twin towers, whistles and other small toys, said Luis Padron, Lisy's national sales manager. The invoice said the toy was a plastic swing set.

"I hate to blame the importer. He probably did not know what he was getting. He brings them in 40-foot containers. But whoever made it knew exactly what they were making," Padron said.

Padron said Lisy did not notice the small plastic figurines until two people complained, but there is no mistaking what the toys represent. At the bottom of each is the product number 9011.

"When we found out what had happened, we recalled them immediately," said Padron, who said the toys made in China do not reflect his company's view. "I was offended by them."

The candy bags were distributed by the company's 100 distributors. Most are sold to small His-



A wholesaler in Miami is recalling 14,000 bags of candy that may contain this toy, shown Friday in Orlando, Fla., that shows a plane flying into the World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

panic and Mexican groceries, Padron said. He said 448 of the Twin Tower toys left the warehouse for distribution, but he managed to put a hold on the rest.

Anna Rodriguez, who bought a bag of the candy for her grandson, said she was stunned when she saw the toy.

"It makes me angry," she told television station WFTV. "I was offended because I couldn't believe that someone would give something like that to a kid."

Padron said he is saving the toys to return to the distributor.

A woman who answered the telephone at L&M refused to give her name and said Friday she did not know anything about the toy.

Branigan, best known for 'Gloria,' dies at 47

BY MADISON J. GRAY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Laura Branigan, a Grammy-nominated pop singer best known for her 1982 platinum hit "Gloria," has died. She was 47.

Branigan died of a brain aneurysm Thursday in her sleep at her home in East Quogue, said her brother Mark Branigan. He said she had complained to a friend of a headache for about two weeks before she died, but he had not sought medical attention.

"Gloria," a signature song from her debut album "Branigan," stayed atop the pop charts for 36 weeks and earned her a Grammy nomination for best female pop vocalist, the first of four nominations in her career.

She also made television appearances, including guest spots on "CHiPs" and in the films "Mugsy's Girls" and "Backstage."

Branigan released seven al-



Singer Laura Branigan is shown in a publicity photo from the 1980s.

bombs after her debut "Branigan," including "Solitaire," "Self Control," and "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You," which was co-written with Michael Bolton.

Her songs also appeared on soundtracks for the films "Flashdance" and "Ghostbusters."

Branigan was born July 3, 1957, and grew up in Brewster, N.Y.

After her run of success in the 1980s, her releases in the early 1990s attracted little attention.

Branigan recently had been working on material for a new release.

She is survived by her mother, two brothers and a sister.

Funeral services were scheduled for Monday.

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Congress gives no guarantee for rapid intelligence reform

BY WILLIAM C. MANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders on Sunday would not guarantee passage of an overhaul of the nation's intelligence agency, but they pledged to try to make it happen.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said both the House and Senate have held hearings this summer and worked diligently on how to deal with recommendations for change offered by the commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The commission found serious shortcomings in intelligence handling and analysis. Among the suggestions was creation of a national direction of intelligence with the power to oversee spending, hiring and firing of all intelligence agencies.

"We will be deliberate. We will be aggressive. We will be focused," said Frist, who appeared with House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., on "Fox News Sunday."

President Bush issued executive orders Friday to expand the powers of the CIA director to perform many of the functions of a proposed national intelligence director until Congress comes up with a formula for the intelligence system.

Bush's orders also put in place other commission recommendations. He also has promised to work with Congress to design the position of overall director of the 15 civilian and military intelligence agencies.

Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has proposed breaking up the Central Intelligence Agency and downgrading or eliminating several agencies in the Pentagon.

Congress has set Oct. 1 as its target to leave before the Nov. 2 election, but that adjournment date is almost certain to be extended. The leaders of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee are working on intelligence legislation to be presented to the full Senate by the end of September.

Calif. lawmakers pass bills to aid drug imports from Canada

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California lawmakers have approved bills that would create government-sponsored Web sites encouraging consumers to buy cheaper prescription drugs from Canada.

The measures, which face almost certain vetoes by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, would make California one of just a few states to provide

residents similar online information. Others include Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Maine.

Federal law prohibits drug imports from other countries, but an estimated 1 million Americans are having their prescriptions filled at Canadian pharmacies at

prices as much as 40 percent less than their American counterparts.

Although the measures passed Friday by big majorities, Schwarzenegger has indicated he will not sign either bill. Margita Thompson, the governor's spokeswoman, has said the governor will not violate federal law.

Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access, a coalition of labor and consumer organizations, said Schwarzenegger will be under pressure to reconsider.

"He's going to have to decide whether he is with families and seniors and uninsured patients or with the big drug companies that price-gouge and are among the

most profitable corporations in the world," Wright said.

One of the two bills would require the state to set up a Web site to help consumers find and buy Canadian imports; the second would establish another site warning of unsafe sources for purchasing drugs from Canada.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Aug. 30)	107.00
S. Korean won (Aug. 28)	1,123.00
Euro	\$1.241
British pound	\$1.46
Commercial rates	
Bahria (Pinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.7855
Canada (Dollar)	1.3135
Denmark (Krone)	6.118
Egypt (Pound)	0.251
Euro	\$1.2016
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7996
Hungary (Forint)	206.10
Iceland (Krona)	72.515
Israel (Shekel)	4.5413
Japan (Yen)	109.63
Philippines (Peso)	56.08
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.7117
S. Korea (Won)	1,132.10
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2623
Thailand (Baht)	41.67
Turkey (Lira)	1,535.152
Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates in purchasing British pounds (in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.	

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Avoid disaster-aid scams

CBS MarketWatch

In the aftermath of a disaster, charities pop up like wildflowers, with telemarketers soliciting donations to help the cause.

If you decide to make a donation, the Federal Trade Commission recommends:

■ Be wary of appeals that tug at your heart strings.

■ Ask what percentage of the donation is used to support the cause and what percentage is used for administrative costs.

■ If the telemarketer claims that the charity will support local organizations, call those organizations to verify.

■ Don't provide bank or credit-card information over the phone.

■ Ask for a receipt showing the amount of the contribution and stating that it is tax-deductible.

■ Avoid cash gifts. Instead, send a check made out to the charity organization — not the solicitor.

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INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.50
3-month bill	1.56
30-year bond	5.02
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com	

Students sickened by carbon monoxide leak

ANACONDA, Mont. — Students sickened by a dormitory carbon monoxide leak have been released by hospitals or were to be released Sunday, school officials said Saturday.

"According to the medical people at the different hospitals, they are fine," said Bob Hogan, assistant student supervisor at the Anaconda Job Corps.

Twenty students from the center were flown Friday to hospitals around the Northwest. Hogan said all have been discharged except for five students in a Pocatello, Idaho, hospital who were expected to be released Sunday morning.

Couple take a 60th anniversary plunge

GREENSBURG, Ind. — A couple celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary took a different kind of plunge — from an airplane.

As nervous friends and relatives craned their necks to watch, Albert and Esther McDaniel made their first skydiving jump on Friday. Both jumped in tandem with an experienced skydiver and returned safely to the ground.

Earlier this year, the couple read a newspaper article about the Never Too Late Foundation, which grants wishes to the elderly. They contacted the group and told them their wish was to jump out of an airplane.

From The Associated Press

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FACES 'N' PLACES

Christian Dior: J'adore Charliz Theron

Add Christian Dior to the list of Charliz Theron fans. The company announced Thursday that the Oscar winner will be the new face of J'adore, the designer's fragrance that debuted in 2000.

Theron will start appearing in print ads and TV commercials next month — about the same time that ads for Chanel No. 5, featuring another Oscar winner, Nicole Kidman, debut.

"Ms. Theron was chosen because she represents modern femininity and embodies the spirit and energy of Dior. She is a classic beauty," said Pamela Baxter, president and CEO of LVMH Perfumes and Cosmetics, Dior's parent company.

The advertising deal with Theron is the first one between the beauty brand and a celebrity. Dior's artistic director John Galiano oversaw all aspects of the ad campaign.



Theron

Floating into the world of 'Geisha'

Cary-Hiroaki Tagawa, who plays a detective in the new NBC police drama "Hawaii," says he's "blown away" by his upcoming movie role — The Baron in "Memoirs of a Geisha."

"I'm just kind of floating right now," he said from the "Hawaii" set.

"Memoirs of a Geisha," directed by Rob Marshall, stars Michelle Yeoh, Zhang Ziyi and Ken Watanabe. The movie is based on the best-selling 1997 book, which chronicles a young girl's rise from poverty in a Japanese fishing village to life in high society.

Tagawa, who has appeared in the films "Pearl Harbor" and "Planet of the Apes," said his work on the film wasn't expected to disrupt his schedule for "Hawaii," which debuts after the Olympics.

Elvis fans have left the festival

Ticket sales again were disappointing for the Elvis Presley Festival, held in Tupelo, Miss., the town where the King of Rock 'n' Roll was born, putting the future of the event in jeopardy.

The festival has drawn some well-known musical acts in the last six years, including B.B. King and Little Richard. But the Downtown Tupelo Main Street Association reported a loss of \$5,465 for the June 2004 festival. Last year, the event lost \$2,642, organizers said.

"We can break even or make a little money, but we can't keep losing money," Jim High, the association's assistant director, said last week. The Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau cut its contributions from \$100,000 in 2003 to \$50,000 this year.

"We love festivals," said Linda Butler Johnson, the bureau's executive director. "And we love to help with seed money, but over a period of time we need to pull back and let them stand on their own feet."

"It is a serious situation," said festival chairman Gary Bailey. "We have to do whatever we can to make it successful next year."

That song was made for you and me

This song is my song, this song is your song. That's the agreement reached between the publishers of Woody Guthrie's classic "This Land Is Your Land" and JibJab Music, creators of an animated Internet short that uses the tune in a comic send-up of President Bush's and Sen. John Kerry's presidential campaigns.

Ludlow Music, the song's publisher, agreed in a settlement last week to allow the cartoon — one of the biggest Internet draws of the summer — to keep using the song. In return, JibJab dropped a lawsuit against Ludlow that had sought an order saying its use of the song was protected because it was a parody and "This Land" was in the public domain.

The creators also agreed to provide a link on their Web site to the song's original lyrics and to donate 20 percent of any profits to the Woody Guthrie Foundation.

Since its July debut, the cartoon — in which equal opportunity lawsuits fly — has been viewed by about 20 million people, according to Santa Monica-based JibJab.

"This Land is known as an iconic song about national unity, and the JibJab parody is predominantly about the lack of national unity at this time," said Fred von Lohmann, a lawyer for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which represented JibJab.

The video can be seen at <http://www.jibjab.com>

Photos and stories from wire reports



BEImages

Julie Andrews and "young princesses" attend the world premiere of "The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement" held at Disneyland earlier this month. At age 68, Andrews is still enjoying success in Hollywood.

Our royal love affair with Julie Andrews

By HANH NGUYEN
Zap2it.com

LOS ANGELES — While promoting her latest film, Disney's "The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement," actress Julie Andrews is the picture of poised elegance in a pristine white pants suit with matching scarf.

She regally presides over the table of journalists, who have regressed upon meeting her, eager to please and basking in her maternally warm smile. It's a natural reaction, considering that in two of her most memorable films, "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music," she plays nannies who command affection as well as respect.

Now, a new generation of moviegoers is discovering Andrews' disarming combination of wit, charm and refinement. In 2001's "The Princess Diaries," Andrews played Queen Clarisse of Genovia, the grandmother and royal mentor to aspiring princess Mia Thermopolis (Anne Hathaway). In the 2004 sequel, the queen prepares Mia for the heavy responsibilities of ruling, including making an arranged marriage.

In addition to Andrews' welcoming personality, kids today have been introduced to the star's beautifully cultured speaking voice as Queen Clarisse and as the animated Queen Lillian in "Shrek 2." Although a botched throat operation in 1997 ended her famous four-octave singing voice, audiences are treated to Andrews' semiregular return to the big screen in "Diaries 2."

"It was the studio's idea [to have her sing] originally on the first film ... but we never did it," director Gary Marshall says. "Then the second time we took another swing, and this time she would try it."

The British actress sings the original duet "Your Crownin' Glory" during the film's rambling slumber party with Disney Channel star Raven, who plays Mia's pal Princess Asana. Andrews is modest about her brief performance.

"It's a very sweet little song and it was very specially written to kind of cope with my voice," she explains. "It's pitched very low, and I actually talk it more than sing it. I don't want the audience to think that I am back singing because I'm not — alas."

Although the song's vocal range is limited, its impact is powerful.

Heather Matarazzo, who plays Mia's childhood friend Lily in both films, says, "It is something that I will definitely share with my kids and grandkids."

Marshall adds, "Most of the crew, even the guys with tattoos, got a little teary there."

Andrews also influenced her fellow cast members with her acting skills. She taught Hathaway the Alexander Technique, a method of movement and alignment that helps people to use their bodies more efficiently to center them and prevent injury.

"I decided to give it a bit of a try," says Hathaway. "It changed my posture a bit, breathing and standing up straight and sort of focusing, centering on it. That really, really helped."

Kathleen Marshall, who plays royal assistant Charlotte, says that Andrews' precise direction had an improving effect on her.

"You want to speak so succinctly and slowly because she has such a beautiful voice and hits every syllable, and so you want to rise up to that," says the director's daughter. "It was an incredible exposure and lesson, just speaking beautifully."

In "Diaries 2," Queen Clarisse has a more active role than in the first film. In addition to instructing Mia on the finer points of being a monarch, Clarisse must contend with her own issues of responsibility versus romance. Her relationship with Joe (Hector Elizondo), the head of security, was only hinted at in the original "Diaries," but has deepened for the sequel, causing a queenly conflict of interest.

Not all of her moments are about duty and difficult decisions, though. During Mia's slumber party, the girls are taking naps in mattress surfing, a sport in which they glide down an indoor slide on mini-mattresses. Since this is a Genovian tradition, the Queen demonstrates her mastery by surfing while standing upright the whole trip down.

At age 68, even though her singing career is over, Andrews is still enjoying success in Hollywood. The actress stays optimistic and grounded, summing up her film career as simply, "I've been a queen. I've been a nanny. I've been a cross-dresser."

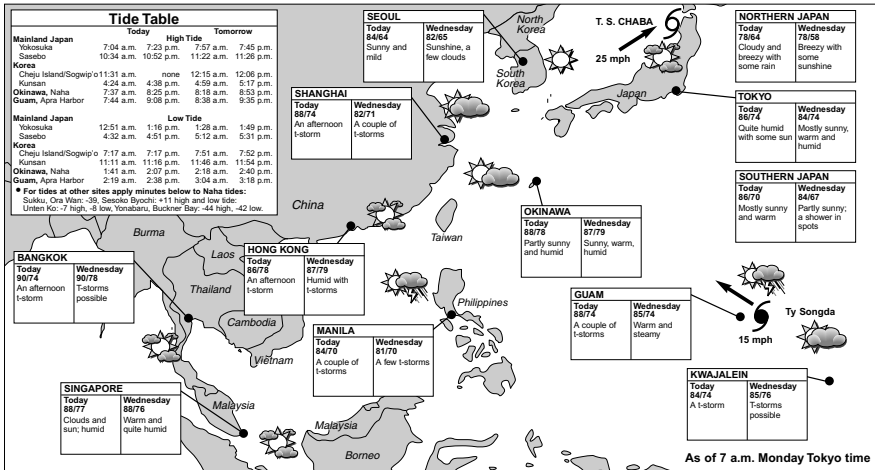
● **SPORTS**

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The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Thursday: Mostly cloudy, high 82, low 71.
 Friday: Partly sunny, high 81, low 70.

KADENA
 Thursday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 79.
 Friday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 79.

SEOUL
 Thursday: Mostly sunny, high 81, low 66.
 Friday: Partly sunny, high 84, low 69.

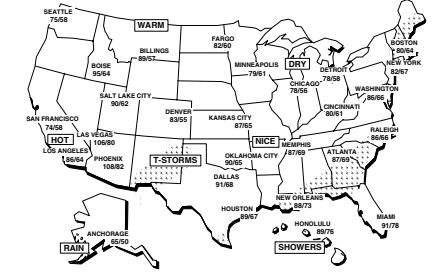
MANILA
 Thursday: Thunderstorms, high 81, low 71.
 Friday: Thunderstorms, high 84, low 71.

HAGATNA
 Thursday: Thunderstorms, high 88, low 77.
 Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 89, low 77.

Sunday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	87/62	Los Angeles	84/64
Amarillo	88/62	Little Rock	86/63
Anchorage	68/49	Louisville	81/66
Ashville	53/63	Miami	93/78
Baltimore	91/71	Milwaukee	68/52
Birmingham	90/68	Nashville	82/66
Bismarck	79/49	New York	91/74
Boise	86/60	Omaha	82/58
Boston	88/70	Orlando	91/75
Brownsville	93/75	Philadelphia	91/72
Buffalo	81/61	Phoenix	107/82
Burlington	83/68	Pittsburgh	84/64
Charleston, SC	81/72	Portland, OR	80/60
Charlotte	86/67	Portland, ME	76/66
Cleveland	77/60	Salt Lake City	84/57
Columbus, OH	82/63	St. Louis	78/60
Duluth	62/51	San Antonio	91/74
El Paso	92/69	San Diego	76/66
Hartford	89/69	San Juan	90/78
Helena	78/51	Tampa	93/77
Indianapolis	76/58	Tulsa	89/61
Jacksonville	94/74	Washington	90/72
Kansas City	82/60	Wichita	88/62

Tuesday, August 31



U.S. Extended Forecast

Conditions will improve in the Northeast on Tuesday as high pressure builds into the region. The tail end of the cold front that brought showers and thunderstorms to the region on Monday will slowly lift north on Tuesday and Wednesday. This will bring showers and thunderstorms from Tennessee south as tropical moisture returns. A powerful cold front will push out of the Rockies, providing strong to possibly severe thunderstorms to the northern Plains on Thursday. A cool and wet weather pattern will set up over the Pacific Northwest, while the Southwest will remain mainly dry.

Tuesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/74	Iwakuni	85/72
Beijing	84/66	Kadena AB	88/78
Camp Casey	83/62	Kunsan AB	84/67
Christchurch	53/36	Kwajalein	84/74
Diego Garcia	82/72	Manila	84/70
Hagatna	88/74	Misawa AB	80/63
Hanoi	89/78	Osan	84/65
Hong Kong	86/78	Seosan	59/45
Honolulu	89/76	Pusan	82/70

Tuesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/74	Budapest	75/45	Kabul	70/49
Athens	84/68	Buenos Aires	73/58	Kiev	81/62
Auckland	53/44	Cairo	94/67	Kuwait	115/81
Baghdad	112/73	Cancun	86/73	London	65/52
Barbados	91/75	Cape Town	64/44	Madrid	90/66
Barcelona	71/60	Geneva	63/51	Mexico City	74/53
Berlin	60/46	Istanbul	79/62	Montreal	76/60
Bermuda	88/77	Jerusalem	88/61	Mogadishu	85/71
Brussels	64/47	Johannesburg	75/50	Moscow	73/61
				Warsaw	61/46



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OPINION

China, Japan on a collision course

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BY AYAKO DOI

On the rare occasions when Wash-
ington policy-makers glance at
the East Asian radar screen these
days, they don't see much beyond two
potential flash points — North Korea
and the Taiwan Strait. But by focusing exclu-
sively on these clear and present dangers,
they are missing a growing blip that has
the potential to be just as great a threat to the re-
gion's stability — the re-emerging national-
ism between East Asia's two biggest
powers, China and Japan.

Even as their economies interlock ever
more tightly, Japan and China find them-
selves on a collision course as they are rising
from territorial disputes to competition
for natural resources to an arms race of
sorts. The trend is doubly disturbing be-
cause it comes
after years of
failed effort to set-
tle aside the bitter
memory of Ja-
pan's 20th cen-
tury conquests of
China and other
Asian neighbors
in favor of build-
ing a common
and prosperous
regional future. It
might not be too
much of an exag-
geration to say that how these two Asian gi-
ants sort out their differences, and what role
the United States plays in the process, could
be the Chinese communist Party's next
newspaper the People's Daily put it, "deter-
mine the future of East Asia and even of the
world as a whole."

Earlier this month, a display of raw hostility
by Chinese soccer fans toward the Ja-
panese team at the Asian Cup finals in Beijing
suggested that hopes for reconciliation may
have been overly optimistic. The ugly scene of
Chinese spectators shouting "Kill! Kill!
Kill!" at the winning Japanese team and
later pelting its bus with soda bottles was
the latest of several recent anti-Japanese
displays. In August 2003, the accidental un-
earthing of some poison gas canisters aban-
doned by Japanese Imperial forces during
World War II killed a Chinese worker and in-
jured dozens in Heilongjiang province.

Though Tokyo apologized, its meager
first offer of compensation triggered angry
denunciations from the victims and their
families, as well as from Chinese officials.
Then in September came a media blitz
over a "mass orgy" by 300 Japanese work-
ers whose company had hired female "com-
panions" to entertain them on a corporate
holiday in southern China. The crowds of in-
stant "couples" waiting for elevators in the
hotel lobby angered Chinese guests, and
news stories fueled outrage across the coun-
try.

A month later, more anti-Japanese dem-
onstrations erupted in the streets of Xi'an
after a university festival at which three Ja-
panese economists performed a nude mild-
by obscenity suit as means as making fun

of the Chinese. With mobs of young Chinese
chanting "Go home, Japanese pigs!" and
vandalizing Japanese restaurants over sub-
sequent days, local authorities had to round
up Japanese students and cart them out of
town for their own safety.

Though China and Japan re-established
diplomatic ties in 1972, not long after Presi-
dent Nixon's landmark visit to Beijing that
opened China to the West, relations have
been rocky ever since. They spiraled
downward in the mid-1990s after Japan's ed-
ucation ministry approved middle school
history texts that China and other Asian
countries saw as whitewashing atrocities
committed by Japanese troops against their
populations in the 1930s and '40s. Former
Chinese President Jiang Zemin, who has
personal memories of World War II Ja-
panese atrocities, not only made sure that Chi-
nese children
learned about
the war, but
also never failed to
tell Japanese
visitors that
they had bet-
ter not forget "his-
tory."

Jiang's suc-
cessor, Hu Jintao,
who became Chi-
nese premier in
first post-WWII-
generation leader
two years ago, clearly wanted better
relations with Tokyo. In 2002, as he and
Premier Wen Jiabao explored new avenues
of diplomacy, Ma Lichang, a writer at the
People's Daily, published a now-famous ar-
ticle in which he predicted that China's
fast ascent to prosperity and arguing that the
government's propensity for inciting
anti-Japanese sentiment produced nothing
more than chaos.

But that and other trial-balloons over-
turning from Beijing were shot down by the ac-
tions of Japan's maverick prime minister, Junichiro
Koizumi. Despite objections from
Beijing, Koizumi, who took office in April
2001, has made annual pilgrimages to Ya-
sukuni, the Shinto shrine that honors Ja-
pan's war dead, including 14 top WWII mil-
itary leaders convicted and executed as
"Class-A" war criminals. After his second
visit to Yasukuni last year, Beijing disinvited
him from a commemoration of the 25th
anniversary of the peace and friendship
treaty, and he has been persona non grata
ever since.

With such frigid relations at the top, it is
no surprise that the Japanese and Chinese
people feel it's OK to denigrate each other
— or that there is serious fallout on affairs
of state. The two governments are engaged
in an increasingly bitter dispute over a focus-
ter of small islands midway between Okina-
wa and Taiwan, called the Senkaku by
Japan and the Diaoyu by China. Though
controlled by Japan for more than a century,
they are still claimed by China.

In June, China began drilling for natural
gas a couple of miles west of Japan's "ex-
clusive economic zone" demarcation line near
the islands. Alarmed that the Chinese wells

might draw off gas from its side, Tokyo not
only protested, but launched a counter-ex-
ploration just east of the line. According to
Japanese reports, the East China Sea is now
dotted with Chinese navy and Japanese
coast guard patrol boats that sometimes
buck off with each other.

Though both nations side with the United
States in the war against terrorism, this
also has become a source of tension be-
tween them. Koizumi's decision to send a flo-
rilla of tanks and destroyers to support the
allied fleet deployed in range of Afghanis-
tan, and his dispatch of 1,000 troops to pro-
vide noncombat support in Iraq, won praise
from the Bush administration — but rang
alarm bells in Beijing.

The Chinese government and media regu-
larly denounce Japan's new activism as evi-
dence of a revival of its pre-war militarism.
Beijing is not totally off the mark. The terror-
ist threat and U.S. pleas for help have legiti-
mized what an increasingly nationalist politi-
cal establishment wanted to do anyway: re-
make Japan into a "normal country," with a
full-fledged military and a will to use it.

Of course, the Chinese aren't exactly inno-
cent when it comes to militarism. Beyond
the revival of its pre-war militarism, China
plans, China now also plans to build a
blue-water navy — one capable of operating
outside coastal waters — and to create an ar-
senal of high-tech conventional weapons.
Cynics may say the rivalry assures that a
U.S. presence in the region will remain a
welcome stabilizing force — and that it is
therefore to Washington's advantage to let
the two nations jostle. Without an active
American effort to put relations back on
track, though, Chinese and Japanese
leaders may find it hard to deal with the
rising nationalism in their respective coun-
tries, and the dark cloud it casts over their
common future.

Ayako DOI is former editor of the Japan Digest. This
column first appeared in The Washington Post.

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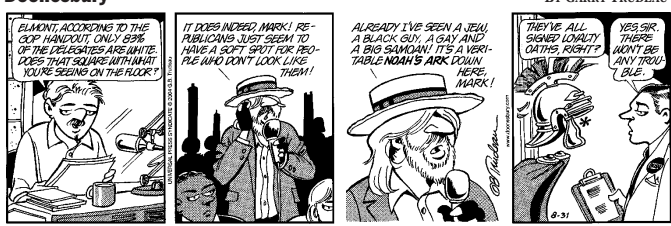
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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

Fast as a Swift Boat Veterans for Truth

BY LARRY DALE KEELING
Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader

I served with John Kerry. Well, sorta.

I never rode on a Swift boat with him. Heck, I never heard of a Swift boat before this presidential campaign.

I wasn't in Vietnam with him. The closest I got to "in country" was an air base on Taiwan, where my unit provided logistical support for a facility that repaired fighter planes, some of which had flown the friendly skies of Nam.

We didn't wear the same uniform. Kerry was Navy; I was Air Force.

But I served with Kerry. We were both in the military for a six-month period between July 1969, when I went on active duty, and January 1970, when I was discharged from active duty.

As a guy's my age, give or take a few years—can say truthfully, accurately, but oh so misleadingly, "I served with John Kerry," thereby gilding their subsequent statements with a patina of undeserved credibility.

My claim to having served with Kerry is misleading in the extreme.

Similar claims by Swift Boat Veterans for Truth are misleading in less extreme, but misleading still.

None of them served on Kerry's boat, although their ads suggest

that they did. In varying degrees, these guys served with him in a broader sense, some on other Swift boats, some up the chain of command.

They tell one version of Kerry's Vietnam service. The guys who were actually in Kerry's boat tell a completely different version.

Who are we to believe? Well, now that we know Swift Boat Veterans for Truth is largely funded by a rich Texan who, along with his wife, gave \$3 million to Texas Republicans during the 2002 elections, that seems an easy call to make.

Making it easier still is the fact that these veterans are getting caught in the tangled web of their own deceit.

Larry Thurlow, another swift boat commander, has claimed Kerry didn't deserve his Bronze Star and third Purple Heart because he wasn't under enemy fire when he pulled an Army lieutenant out of the river and into his boat. But The Washington Post recently reported that Thurlow won his own Bronze Star for courage under fire in the same incident.

Oops! "I know John Kerry is lying about his first Purple Heart because I treated him for that injury," Louis Letson claims in the attack ad.

But FactCheck.org, a nonpartisan nonprofit that "truth squads" political claims and ads across the

spectrum, says medical records do not list Letson as the person who treated Kerry's injury.

Oops! Then there is George Elliott, the retired Navy captain who recommended Kerry for a Silver Star. Elliott recently told The Boston Globe that he made "a terrible mistake" by suggesting in a recent affidavit that Kerry hadn't told the truth about the incident that led to Kerry killing an enemy soldier and earning a Silver Star.

"I'm the one in trouble here. ... I knew it (the affidavit) was wrong," Elliott is quoted as saying. Then, a few days later he recanted his recant, signing a second affidavit that once again supported the ad.

Oops! While all these "Oopses" show clearly whose honesty and truthfulness really is in question (and it's not Kerry's), they do not speak to another central premise of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth's attack ads: that Kerry betrayed veterans of Vietnam and his nation by becoming a vocal opponent of the war after leaving the Navy.

As I made clear earlier, I am not a Vietnam veteran. I am a veteran of the Vietnam era. Kerry did not betray me. And I think that some of the Vietnam veterans I've known, while I was in the service and afterward, would say that he did not betray them, either.

When I made my commitment to the Air Force as a 20-year-old



college student in 1967, I supported the war in Vietnam. When I went on active duty in 1969, I supported the war.

By the time I left the Air Force a few years later, I no longer supported the war. I supported the troops who were fighting it, as Kerry did, and I support them as veterans today, as Kerry does.

But the events that occurred during my years of service and the knowledge I gained from those events led me to believe that the war itself was wrong—a belief I still hold.

I also believe I have that in common with many veterans of that era who came to question, if not the reason for the war, at least its execution.

Kerry was one of those, one who showed his courage in battle and came home to demonstrate another kind of courage—the courage to stand up and tell his country it was following the wrong course.

Call him liberal. Call him a flip-flopper. Call him unfit to be president. But don't call him traitor. What he did was the act of a true patriot.

Thanks to Allies in 1944, we'll always have Paris

BY RACHEL SPREIRENGER

It was 60 years ago this month, in yet all I had been waiting a long time for this moment, when I would finally see the enemy in defeat.

Allow me now on this anniversary to be one voice for those who brought us our liberation that day.

I was a 17-year-old Jewish girl who had been hiding under an assumed name with forged identity papers in the Pigalle district of Paris. I'd been waiting since 1940, when France fell, since 1941, when the Germans came to my father, since 1943, when my 13-year-old sister and I—sole survivors of our family—had to abandon our home and go into hiding. It was marking time, focused on one great expectation: deliverance.

Hope was kept alive with "Les Français Partent aux Français," the voice of De Gaulle's Free France broadcast from London. In the spring of 1944, the cryptic radio messages to resistance groups proliferated, unintelligible to us but obviously instructions to various networks operating in France, indicating increased activity and raising expectations. Something was in the air.

There were skeptics, in Paris and elsewhere. For me, and others like me, skepticism was impossible. We were caught in a deadly race between those who would find us out and send us to the death camps and those who carried with them our hopes for life—the Allied soldiers.

Then, early one morning, the wait was over. Hurried footsteps on the stairs, and the maid of the small hotel where I had sought refuge came running down the narrow corridor, pounding at every door, announcing breathlessly, "Ils ont débarqué! Ils ont débarqué!" — "They have landed! They have landed!"

The news struck like a thunderbolt. And yet all the joy swelling up within us had to be contained. The Kommandantur (headquarters of the German military command of occupied France) seemed to think we were being good. The midnight curfew was extended to 1 a.m. for this one day.

In mid-August, as Allied troops neared the city of Paris rose. It was in a state of siege. The German garrison had been clearing out for days, leaving behind a beleaguered high command that no longer was in command. But no one knew when the end would come—or when we would be safe. There one night church bells were set ringing, not in alarm but in triumph, the opening salvo of the liberation. A small detachment of Gen. Philippe Leclerc's Free French troops had entered Paris and was encamped at the Hotel de Ville, home of the municipal authorities, only a stone's throw from Notre Dame.

Paris was liberated the next day. I walked down deserted streets to the Place de l'Opera, eager to see what was happening, and by chance was near the Kommandantur when a contingent of Free French troops arrived. There was a brief firefight, and then it happened: the surrender of the German command. Parisians began emerging from buildings. The crowd was still sparse but we formed a chain, linked hands and spontaneously burst into "La Marseillaise," while German officers, hatless, hands in the air, marched down Avenue de l'Opera.

The nightmare was over. I was awed at the magnitude of the event I was witnessing. The German war machine was not invincible after all, and for me, it was the men of D-Day who had driven the point home. It was to them that I owed my freedom and my life.

Fifty years later, at Omaha Beach, on the

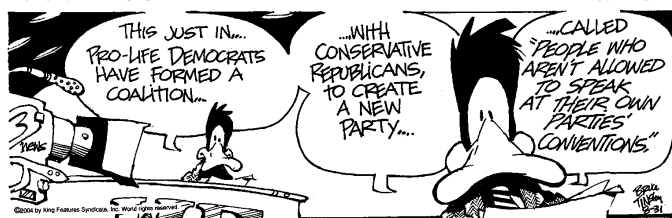
bluff overlooking the stretch of sand where the GIs had come ashore, I remembered D-Day. At the breathtaking military cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer, where so many are interred, I had come to honor the men who a half-century earlier, on that day and at that very spot, had brought liberation to my country and to me. Few are left of these once-ordinary/extraordinary young men. They are dying every day, but for me they belong among the immortals. They came in peril of their lives and saved Europe.

Sixty years ago they marched down the Champs Elysees in an awesome parade of citizen-soldiers, shoulder to shoulder, filling the broad expanse of the avenue. The passing years have only intensified the emotion I felt as a young girl that August, and the gratitude to those who saved our future.

Rachel Spreirenger, who lives in a suburb of Chicago, is writing a memoir on her years in France before and during the German occupation. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Pet abuser gets time

PA LEVITTOWN — A man who set his kitten on fire and threw it off the balcony of his apartment has been sentenced to six to 23 months in prison.

Daniel Culligan, 28, of Bristol Township, was sentenced after pleading guilty in June to arson and cruelty to animals.

Police said Culligan admitted spraying lighter fluid on the 9-month-old kitten's back Dec. 13, then setting it on fire and tossing it off his apartment balcony. The cat had to be euthanized that night.

Police said Culligan had said he was "frustrated" after the pet defecated on the floor and scratched his son. Culligan was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and \$222 in restitution to the animal hospital that euthanized the kitten.

Expensive country ham

KY LOUISVILLE — If you stuck the silver-plated ham they auctioned here in the supermarket deli case and put a price-per-pound sign in it, it would read \$4,166.66.

Of course, it was no ordinary slab of pig meat that was being peddled around by Miss Kentucky at the Kentucky Farm Bureau's traditional country ham breakfast.

This ham was grand champion of the Kentucky State Fair, and the \$60,000 bid it brought from Republic Bank & Trust was evidence of just how seriously Kentuckians take their country ham.

The sale of the 14.4-pound ham was preceded by speeches from the governor and a U.S. senator.

The winning bidder, Republic Bank chairman and founder Bernard Trager, said he was willing to pay "whatever it took" to walk away with the salty, cured meat.

'Boring, bland' marriage

MO INDEPENDENCE — Single life was Boring, and married life will be Bland for this new bride.

Katie Boring wed Nathan Bland June 12.

And the Boring-Bland affair was anything but, said the groom.

After the announcement of their engagement was published last winter, the impending "Boring-Bland" merger was mentioned on NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," in a segment where the comedian calls attention to unusual name combinations.

Bland, out of town on business, was flipping channels in his hotel room when he saw it.

Some friends had joked about sending the engagement notice to Leno, but nobody took credit once it actually made the show.

The bride figures that over the years she's probably had a worse time over her name than her husband has.

Pooch hits the road

NE WAVERLY — It was a ruff ride for the hit-chick who traveled 85 miles on the back of a semitrailer truck in pouring rain, state troopers said.

Before being rescued, he was shivering, sopping wet and wearing only a flea collar.

A motorist on Interstate 80 reported seeing a dog on the truck, troopers said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

The driver said the mixed-breed shepherd must have hitched a ride when he stopped in Sutton, 130 miles from the driver's final destination, Omaha.

Troopers called around to local police and sheriff's offices, but so far they haven't found anyone missing a dog.

For now, the dog has found temporary lodging.

Votes are not for sale

OH ELYRIA — James Pengov thought selling his vote would help get him out of debt. Instead it landed him in trouble with the law.

It took authorities 12 hours to hear about and stop Pengov's eBay offer of a "Presidential Vote for Sale," with a starting bid of \$50.

The 36-year-old said he was hoping to land enough money from selling his vote to pay medical bills.

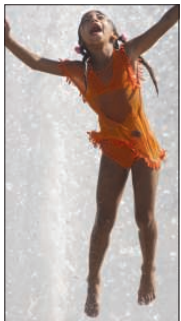
Pengov said he didn't know that selling a vote was illegal.

The fraud unit of the California secretary of state's office, which has been alerted to votes for sale on eBay in previous elections, came across the posting and notified Ohio authorities.

Pengov told buyers he generally votes Republican, but expressed dissatisfaction with both parties.

Man stabs alligator

FL GAINESVILLE — A man jumped in a pond and



Jumping for joy

Brenda Cano, 6, cools off in a water fountain at Concourse Park in Kansas City, Mo. Temperatures reached into the 90s with the heat index at 100 degrees.

stabbed a 6-foot alligator with a pocket-knife to force the reptile to release his dog from its jaws.

Matthew Goff, 29, said he was walking Sugar, a tan-colored bloodhound/Shar-Pei mix, in a park when the attack occurred. The unleashed dog wandered to the edge of the pond and the gator grabbed its head.

"I couldn't stand by and watch it happen and I had the pocket-knife so I decided to try and save her," Goff said.

The gator released Sugar when Goff stabbed the reptile in the eye. The dog then ran home, escaping with three teeth marks on and about her head. Goff had a few scratches.

A state trapper planned to kill the gator if it's found.

Charged with harassment

NY MINEOLA — A Long Island man was arraigned on charges he made hundreds of threatening and sexually suggestive telephone calls to female reporters and anchors at a cable television news station over the last eight years.

Carmen Monaco Jr., 48, who worked at a trucking company, allegedly left lewd messages and threats at News 12 Long Island, said Nassau County Police Det. Lt. Steven Skrynecki.

Monaco was charged with three counts of third-degree stalking and eight counts of second-degree aggravated harassment. Bail was set at \$105,000 and he was ordered not to have contact with the station or its reporters, said Katie Grillo-Robles, spokeswoman at the district attorney's office.

Concern for orcas

WA SEATTLE — Fire retardants used worldwide in manufacturing vehicle parts and computers have been found in Puget Sound orcas, raising new concerns about the long-term health of the region's killer whales, a new Canadian study shows.

Canadian fisheries scientists found that killer whales they tested had troubling levels of polybrominated diphenyl ethers or PBDEs, chemicals related to PCBs, a carcinogen banned decades ago.

The findings came as the state Ecology Department prepares recommendations for curtailing the use of PBDEs in Washington, following an executive order Gov. Gary Locke issued in January.

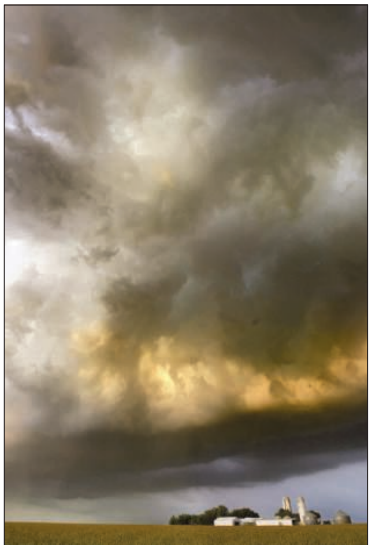
Rude awakening

DC WASHINGTON — Capital residents opened their morning newspaper to find photos of Laurie Coleman, wife of Republican Sen. Norm Coleman of Minnesota, dressed in lingerie and a cocktail dress.

The Washington Post headline: "Senator's Wife Reveals Almost All!"

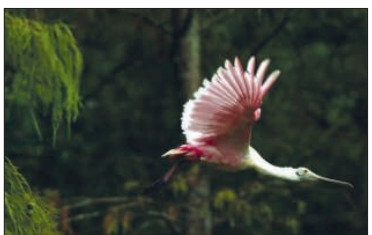
A victim of the paparazzi? Hardly.

Coleman's Los Angeles publicist said he pitched the Style section layout to promote Laurie Coleman's acting and modeling career. She currently is a spokeswoman for a women's clothing line at ShopNBC, a 24-hour TV shopping network.



Trouble brewing

Storm clouds form over a farm south-east of Lidderdale, Iowa. The northern half of Carroll County had been placed in a tornado warning by the National Weather Service, although no tornado was ever spotted, nor was any damage reported.



Spoonbill in flight

A roseate spoonbill takes flight after resting its young on a branch of a cypress tree in Lake Martin in St. Martin Parish, La.



Just one more coat ...

Boguslaw Karbarz, a painter for US Tank Painting Inc. based in Hillside, N.J., walks along the crown of the water tank in the Carmar section of Rotterdam, N.Y.



Row your boat

Participants in the 2004 Ford Canoe Challenge paddle their way down the San Antonio River near the Casa Rio restaurant in San Antonio.



Soothing waters

Wanda, an arthritic Asian elephant that is undergoing a whirlpool bath at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, Mich.

Elephant keeper Mary Wulf keeps the attention of



Squeaky clean

Ben Minton, with Clearview Window Cleaning, works through periodic rain showers to clean windows on the Lexington Chamber of Commerce building at the corner of Rose and East Main streets in Lexington, Ky.

Arts center shuts down

PA PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, an art gallery and school founded in 1945, has suspended operations because it's about \$1 million in debt, officials said. All 13 staff members were laid off, said Catherine Kraus, president of the center's board.

Contributions from local foundations have dropped between 20 percent and 25 percent at a time when all local arts groups are seeking grants from the same pool of money, Kraus said.

Health care shuffle

GA ATLANTA — Gov. Sonny Perdue proposed a plan to shift 1 million Medicaid recipients in Georgia into private-sector, managed health care programs beginning in 2006. The state would solicit bids from care management organizations to provide Medicaid-covered health benefits in specific regions. Georgia spends about \$2 billion a year on Medicaid.

Hermes takes off

CA SAN FRANCISCO — After a 30-year rest, Hermes has taken flight again.

The bronze statue "Resting Hermes," a remnant of the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition that was stolen in the 1970s and quickly returned, disappeared in the dead of night from its base outside the posh University Club.

Thieves pried the 300-pound statue off its soapstone pedestal and took off with the wing-footed Greek god of messengers, who had a reputation for thievery and a thirst for adventure.

"My gut tells me that the crooks pulled up in a pickup truck, loosened the statue with a crowbar, then threw it in the back of the truck and drove off," said Dede Kasher, general manager and chief operating officer of the club. "It was one guy, then I wouldn't want to meet him in a dark alley. Hermes is heavy."

The club is offering a \$1,000 reward for Hermes' safe return, no questions asked.

Magic the giraffe dies

TN KNOXVILLE — Magic, the Knoxville Zoo's giraffe that fathered 16 calves and had a long-running feud with a park zebra named PJ, has died.

Zookeepers found the 17-year-old animal dead in his stall over the weekend, zoo Executive Director Jim Vina said. The cause of death was not immediately known. Vina said preliminary tests indicate a possible internal infection.

Buried treasure

ME CORINNA — A Corinna man was being sought by police in connection with the seizure of nearly eight pounds of cocaine found buried in the backyard of his grandmother's home, authorities said.

Jason Belmer, 25, ran into the woods after the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency said. The find was described as one of the state's largest cocaine seizures, with an estimated street value of as much as \$380,000.

After agents had been tipped off about Belmer's alleged drug dealing, authorities searched the home of his grandmother, Jeanne Rogers. The drugs were found wrapped in plastic and buried in the yard beneath a shed, the agency said.

Dali museum packs heat

FL ST. PETERSBURG — The Salvador Dali Museum is making a bold response to the recent theft of Edward Munch's "The Scream" from the Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway.

"We've hired armed, off-duty law-enforcement officers," said Hank Hine, director of the Dali, which draws about 200,000 visitors annually.

It's an unorthodox move in the world of fine-arts museums, where unarmed guards are the norm.

Unauthorized withdrawal

UT SOUTH OGDEN — Zachary Hayden liked the car so much, he only needed to stop at the bank to get some money.

The problem is, police said, he didn't have an account there.

Authorities said Hayden, 31, of Warsaw, Ind., robbed the Wells Fargo Bank after test driving a Ford Escort from the Good-One Auto Sales and then using the car for his getaway.

"He didn't seem different from other customers," said Trent Goodwin, a car salesman. "He walked here, but a lot of our customers do that."

Goodwin sent another employee along with Hayden when he said he needed to withdraw the money to buy the vehicle.

While Hayden was inside the Wells Fargo, the employee got out of the car to help a woman with directions. Just then, Hayden allegedly ran out of the bank and fled in the car, leaving the employee behind.

More than six hours after the robbery, Nevada Highway Patrol pulled the car over near Ely, Nev., about 200 miles southwest of South Ogden. It still had the white lettering of \$1,895 on the window and displayed dealer license plates.

Call saves woman's life

OH SUMMERFORD — A woman says her life was likely saved when she answered a hang-up phone call.

Mary Dhumme was watching television when the phone in the next room rang. She got up to answer it, but there was no one at the other end of the line.

Suddenly, she heard breaking glass and saw her living room wall collapse onto the chair where she'd been sitting.

A pickup truck had missed the curve on the road in front of Dhumme's home and smashed into the century-old house. Dhumme said she saw the driver run away as she dialed 911.

Three hours later, State Highway Patrol troopers arrested Carlos Cummings, 41, of Mechanicsburg, on a charge of failing to control a vehicle.

"The phone ringing at that particular time! That's one of those things people would never believe," Dhumme said. "Maybe it was God calling to tell me to get out of my living room."

Stories and photos from wire services



Friendship circle

Members of a youth soccer team conclude a recent practice session by joining hands for a team run in Kenosha, Wis.

Horoscope

Venus blows kisses to Saturn as it passes. Personal growth will be tested, especially in regard to the way we behave in our closest relationships. There's a chance to check yourself — are you really over that thing you said you were over? A review of past lessons in love could reveal a pattern that is still being perpetuated.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (August 31). Even though you feel you know yourself well, you'll deepen your knowledge this year and enable yourself to make choices that lead to your immediate satisfaction.

Your career takes off this fall, and finances improve, too. Your personal life gives you power in November. Let go of ties that require too much effort. Love signs are Aries and Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're ready to get current or even futuristic about the way you do business. Abandon antiquated ideas and outdated methods for the modern, streamlined and efficient. Aquarius and Gemini are your technological allies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll not only know exactly how you feel, you'll also have the courage to act on a romantic impulse. Instead of trying to get all your needs met in one place, seek multiple sources of friendship and encouragement.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're driven to attract new people — financial goals are looming, and you're eager to meet them! This is done most effectively through the principle of attraction. An environment that is functional and aesthetic wins clients.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The stars give you a sense of accomplishment as an individual who is part of the whole today. Work with others to attain your goals. Much happens in a small group setting, and you naturally assume the leadership role.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The secret to happiness is no secret at all. You'll feel happy and complete

whenever you choose to feel that way. Relationships become more solid when you live by this principle. Tonight, you'll be in a precarious social situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You've known yourself all these years, but you still have much to learn about your own complex character. Financial speculations are right on the money — invest confidently. If you refuse to compromise, you can get your way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You attract and want to lend you more support but are waiting for your cue. You're so well thought of now that you may be patted on the back for something you didn't do. You and a newcomer have chemistry.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You're feeling sassy and have the attitude that you just don't care what people think. This allows you to ask for things you don't even want and certainly things that you do. Negotiate your way into prosperity and fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sometimes, the only mature way to handle serious matters is to laugh out loud. The stars support a big belly laugh this afternoon. When you see the humor in the situation, others will, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Seeing the same people and scenery day in and day out will wear on you. Luckily, it's not difficult to add dimension to your life. If you're using your creativity, your achievements will be satisfying on many levels.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Whether it's joy or sadness, you'll feel it fully, deeply, madly. Be on the lookout for energy vampires, and don't let them near. Emotions are too easily manipulated under these skies. It's also easy to help someone feel better.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

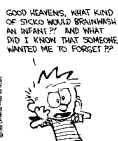
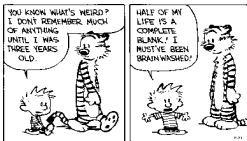
You may feel a bit restless, striving for progress in all things. Relax. Balance is the key to moving forward. By just being, you are enough. Accomplishments happen naturally when you believe you are entitled to abundance.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



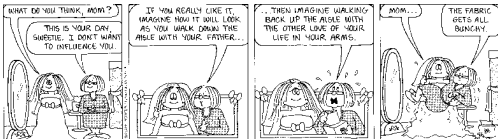
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fox Trot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



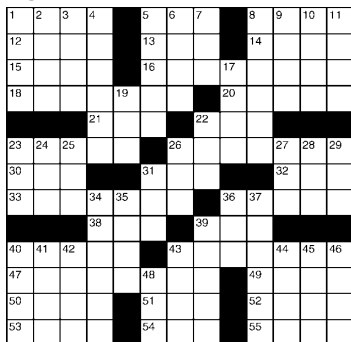
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Zinger
- 5 Wye follower
- 8 Post-Christmas event
- 12 Toast topper
- 13 Work unit
- 14 New Haven collegians
- 15 "— It Romantic?"
- 16 Basic training site
- 18 Blackout criminals
- 20 Impressive setup
- 21 Meadow
- 22 Dander
- 23 "Psycho" setting
- 26 Forest bird
- 30 Early animal sanctuary

Down

- 54 Cuning
- 55 Mr. Gingrich
- 1 Seethe
- 2 Not to mention
- 3 Nevada city
- 4 Carafe
- 5 Football ref
- 6 Piccadilly statue
- 7 Diva's problem
- 8 Clandestine
- 9 Wined
- 10 Succotash bean
- 11 Catch sight of
- 12 Implement
- 13 Wiggle
- 14 Satum auto model
- 15 Welcome sight?
- 16 Plata's partner
- 17 Ring decision
- 26 Coloration
- 27 Personal
- 28 Travel
- 29 — Alamos, Calif.
- 31 Suitable
- 34 Blab
- 35 Uppity sort
- 36 San Diego attraction
- 37 Get
- 39 Two score
- 40 Haul
- 41 "The Music Man" verse
- 42 Implement
- 43 Sense
- 44 Fashion
- 45 From square one
- 46 Felix Unger-esque
- 48 Type squares

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	O	G	S	D	I	M	R	O	T	C
U	N	I	T	I	R	A	E	C	H	O
B	U	R	R	S	E	T	S	S	A	I
A	S	L	E	E	P	H	E	A	R	S
A	G	O	G	A	L	I				
M	A	R	M	O	S	E	T	E	N	O
A	G	A	S	E	T	I	N	A	R	E
T	O	D	D	S	O	M	E	R	S	E
I	A	M	N	E	V	E				
E	N	A	M	O	R	L	A	D	I	D
S	E	T	A	S	I	D	E	H	O	O
P	R	O	S	S	O	S	O	T	T	O
Y	O	R	K	E	N	S	T	A	S	S

8-31

CRYPTOQUIP

T I S K A C T J S D Y M S I C
K C W U X G A I M U V T Y A S
X D W O A Y D W C P S D G R J C

OTICR "YLC VTVCW PLTAMC."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M VERY GOOD AT GROWING WHEAT AND BARLEY, SO WOULD YOU SAY I HAVE A GRAIN THUMB?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals P

630

Manager
and Communications
ect manager for its
d internet operations
will be responsible for
over approved projects;
posals and determining
chedule and resources

projects are on time and inventory; site surveys; and availability of

be SOFA eligible.
are our candidate,
resume to:
mediatti.com
(in MSWord format only)
003, Kadena Air Base

Miscellaneous	1040
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Courtney, Okinawa - 2000 walt

transformer, \$80.00 each, 3 available. Call 622-5304.

Foster, Okinawa - Yoga for inflexible people DVD \$10.00. Brand-new condition. Only viewed once. Read rave reviews on amazon.com Call 646-5837.

Kadena, Okinawa - (1) 2000 watts Transformer Tora pack converts 100 to 120 volts. Better than 2000 watts transformer available in the PX for \$150.00. Comes with 4 individual plugs. Yellow color with carrying handle. See note for \$80.00. Call 633-8211 or 090-8861-1910.

Kadena, Okinawa - I have 3-pampered chd food choppers!

Brand new, never been opened.
I will sell to you for a discount,
\$25 each. Call Stephanie at
633-2190.

Kadena, Okinawa - Suzuki
generator, super quiet and portable,
purchased for emergency
typhoon power, but never needed
it so it has never been
started. The original price was
\$870.00, will sell it for \$495.00.
Call 633-6242.

Sagamihara, Japan - Girl's
soccer shoes: Like new Nike
size 2 \$10.00. Call Aimee at
267-6971 or email

seagullsab@yahoo.com

Tokyo - Wanted: Tennis partner, female, intermediate to advance, to play at the Embassy Housing Compound in Tokyo. Any daytime OK. Email: deeleedub@hotmail.com.

Yokota - Swivel rocker, \$75.00; cherry curio cabinet, \$170.00; armoire, fits 27-inch TV, \$50.00; CD storage tower, \$15.00; child's vanity and chair, \$10.00. Call 227-6036.

Yongsong Korea: 20 In Color TV hangs, 1 used, \$65. CBN, Austin

Many Used 395 Uno, Ashley
Brand Oak Color Lifting Cocktail
Table \$50 OBO, Two Oak Color
Lamp Tables with Lamps \$30
for both OBO, One Oak Color
6 Ft five Shelf Bookcase \$25
OBO, Light Oak Colored DVD
Rack \$10. Contact
010-8697-6665

Zama - Large Japanese refrigerator \$300 OBO still under warranty, Japanese gas range \$50 OBO, queen size mattress & box spring \$300 OBO, 29" Hitachi TV \$300 OBO. All items purchased in March '04. Call 0803-176-4149 or email csmartin1020@hotmail.com

Mediatti Broadband Communications

Project Manager

Applicants must be SOFA eligible.
If you believe you are our candidate,

MBCSales@mediatti.com

and as attachment in MSWord format only)
 or deliver to Bldg. 403, Kadena Air Base

820	Miscellaneous	1040
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Courtney, Okinawa - 2000 watts

transformer, \$80.00 each, 3 available. Call 622-5304.

5 week old beagle old
y good and playful with
d good with other pets.
and Leah are free

viewed once. Head rave reviews on amazon.com Call 646-5837.

Kadena, Okinawa - (1) 2000 watts Transformer Tora pack converts 100 to 120 volts. Better than 2000 watt transformer.

Excellent watchdog, not
around other pets, very
friendly. Call 267-6568 or
workshop@hotmail.com

633-8211 or 090-6861-1910.

Kadena, Okinawa - I have 3-pampered chef food choppers! Brand new, never been opened. I will sell to you for a discount.

id the commuter 5 miles
entagon and near Metro.
e 10 October. \$2590 per
\$25 each. Call Stephanie at
633-2190.

Kadena, Okinawa - Suzuki generator, super quiet and portable, purchased for emergency.

Unfurnished 878

Call 633-6242.

rooms & 2 Bathrooms. 1,000 sq. feet. Renter occupied (an Family). Asking \$1,000. Reasonable offers.

seagullsab@yahoo.com

945

Okinawa - Solid wood
Airplane Rocker. Bought
ena Bazaar. Made in
d. \$50.00. Call Gary at
Any daytime OR. Email:
deeleedub@hotmail.com.

120 or email
n@oasis.mediafire.net

ng Goods 980
CD storage tower, \$15.00,
child's vanity and chair, \$10.00.
Call 227-6035.

Yongsan Korea: 20 In Color TV barely Used \$65 OBO, Ashley Brand Oak Color Lifting Cockta

OBO. Call 646-5837 or monetat@hotmail.com

Okinawa - TUSA mask

Zama, Japan - Moving sale:
JVC 27" TV \$125.00. Casio

keyboard \$50.00, 1.6 cubic foot microwave \$50.00, black entertainment center \$25.00, many Disney children's VHS movies.

Call Brian or Stephanie
83-1745 or email
nstrong -
03@yahoo.com

Zama - Large Japanese refrigerator \$300 OBO still under warranty. Japanese gas range

OBO. Tayformade
Driver, Stiff flex, 9.5,
OBO. Irons are in good
condition. \$300 OBO. All items

driver is in very good condition. Contact Tim at 0803-176-4149 or email csmartin1020@hotmail.com

SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

Times listed are Japan and Korea. Singapore and Hong Kong are one hour behind. Schedule subject to change without notice.

Television

AFN-Pacific/AFN-Korea

TUE, Aug. 31, at 7 a.m.-p.m. football-NFL preseason: Tennessee vs. Dallas.

AFN-Atlantic

TUE, Aug. 31, at 8 a.m.-p.m. football: ESPN Monday Night Football.

TUE, Aug. 31, at 10 a.m.-p.m. football: NFL preseason: Tennessee vs. Dallas.

WED, Sept. 1, at 7 a.m.-p.m. baseball: Texas vs. Minnesota.

THU, Sept. 2, at 8 a.m.-p.m. baseball: Anaheim vs. Cincinnati.

AFN-FSN

TUE, Aug. 31, at 8 a.m.-p.m. racing: NHRA O'Reilly Midwest Nationals.

TUE, Aug. 31, at 10 a.m.-p.m. football: NFL preseason: Pittsburgh vs. Dallas.

WED, Sept. 1, at 4 p.m.-p.m. baseball: Chicago Cubs vs. Montreal.

THU, Sept. 2, at 4 p.m.-p.m. football: NASCAR Nextel Cup Chase.

WED, Sept. 1, at 8 a.m.-p.m. football: NFL preseason: Tennessee vs. Dallas.

THU, Sept. 2, at 4 a.m.-p.m. tennis: U.S. Open, Day 2.

THU, Sept. 2, at 4 p.m.-p.m. baseball: San Diego vs. St. Louis.

THU, Sept. 2, at 5 p.m.-p.m. baseball: Cleveland vs. N.Y. Yankees.

THU, Sept. 2, at 6 p.m.-p.m. tennis: U.S. Open, Day 3.

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference				
Team	W	L	T	Pct
MetroStars	9	8	12	36
Columbus	9	8	20	34
New York	9	9	20	34
New England	9	9	24	30
San Jose	9	10	10	27

Western Conference				
Team	W	L	T	Pct
Kansas City	9	6	35	31
Los Angeles	9	6	35	31
Portland	9	7	33	21
Dallas	9	9	29	32
San Diego	9	9	29	32

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games
D.C. United vs. New England, 6 p.m.
Chicago 1, Chicago 0, 7 p.m.

Sunday's game
Columbus vs. San Jose, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 1
Kansas City at San Jose, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 4
San Jose at New England, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 5
Los Angeles at Chicago, 7 p.m.

MetroStars at Kansas City
Kansas City at Colorado, 7 p.m.

Pro football

NFL preseason

East				
Team	W	L	T	Pct
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	66.7
Buffalo	2	1	0	66.7
Indianapolis	2	1	0	66.7
Minnesota	2	1	0	66.7
New England	2	1	0	66.7

South				
Team	W	L	T	Pct
Tennessee	2	0	1	66.7
Atlanta	2	0	1	66.7
Carolina	2	0	1	66.7
Washington	2	0	1	66.7

North				
Team	W	L	T	Pct
Baltimore	2	0	1	66.7
Pittsburgh	2	0	1	66.7
Cincinnati	2	0	1	66.7
Denver	2	0	1	66.7
Kansas City	2	0	1	66.7
San Diego	2	0	1	66.7

Western Conference

East				
Team	W	L	T	Pct
Washington	2	0	1	66.7
N.Y. Giants	2	0	1	66.7
Philadelphia	2	0	1	66.7
San Francisco	2	0	1	66.7

South				
Team	W	L	T	Pct
Carolina	2	0	1	66.7
New Orleans	2	0	1	66.7
Atlanta	2	0	1	66.7
Green Bay	2	0	1	66.7

North				
Team	W	L	T	Pct
Chicago	2	0	1	66.7
Minnesota	2	0	1	66.7
Green Bay	2	0	1	66.7
Seattle	2	0	1	66.7
San Francisco	2	0	1	66.7

Friday's games
N.Y. Jets vs. N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Minnesota 23, San Francisco 10, 1 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 4
Los Angeles 26, Washington 10, 1 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 5
Jacksonville 9, Green Bay 7, 1 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 6
New Orleans 17, Chicago 13, 1 p.m.

Tampa Bay 17, Miami 10, 1 p.m.

Atlanta 37, Cincinnati 10, 1 p.m.

Atlanta 37, Cincinnati 10, 1 p.m.

Carolina 26, New England 17, 1 p.m.

Indianapolis 30, Buffalo 17, 1 p.m.

Denver 31, Houston 17, 1 p.m.

Seattle 30, San Diego 19, 1 p.m.

San Francisco 30, Dallas 19, 1 p.m.

San Francisco 30, Dallas 19, 1 p.m.

San Francisco 30, Dallas 19, 1 p.m.

San Francisco 30, Dallas 19, 1 p.m.

San Francisco 30, Dallas 19, 1 p.m.

San Francisco 30, Dallas 19, 1 p.m.

San Francisco 30, Dallas 19, 1 p.m.

San Francisco 30, Dallas 19, 1 p.m.

San Francisco 30, Dallas 19, 1 p.m.

Oakland 17, Arizona 16

Tennessee at New York

Thursday, Sept. 2

Carolina at New England

Jacksonville at New York

Buffalo at Detroit

Kansas City at Cleveland

Tampa Bay at Houston

San Diego at Oakland

Arizona at Denver

San Diego at San Francisco

Friday, Sept. 3

Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets

Baltimore at Washington

Indianapolis at Cincinnati

Baltimore at Tennessee

Miami at New Orleans

Chicago at Cleveland

End Preseason

Japan baseball

Central League

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Chunichi	62	45	5	57.9
Yokai	56	49	5	53.0
Yomiuri	60	53	3	53.1
Hanshin	55	58	1	48.7
Chiba	55	58	1	48.7
Hiroshima	45	63	0	41.7

Chunichi 6, Yokohama 4

Yokai 1, Hiroshima 2

Yokai vs. Yomiuri, postponed, rain

Pacific League

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Seibu	67	50	1	57.3
Deia	67	50	1	57.3
Nippon	58	58	2	50.0
Orix	42	71	2	37.2
Hankyu	42	71	2	37.2

Kintetsu 3, Lotte 10, 10 innings

Nippon 10, G. L. 6, 10 innings

Deia 1, Seibu 5

Pro basketball

WNBA

Team	W	L	T	Pct
New York	12	13	2	52.0
Phoenix	13	14	1	48.3
Detroit	13	14	1	48.3
San Antonio	12	14	2	46.7
Washington	12	14	2	46.7
Indiana	12	14	2	46.7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Los Angeles	13	7	0	65.0
Seattle	13	7	0	65.0
Phoenix	12	13	4	48.3
Portland	12	13	4	48.3
Houston	12	14	2	46.7
San Antonio	12	14	2	46.7

Wednesday, Sept. 1

Indiana at Charlotte

Phoenix at Detroit

Minnesota at Houston

Sacramento at Seattle

San Antonio at Los Angeles

Auto racing

Sharpie 500

Saturday

Albright Speedway

Brick, Tenn.

Starting position: 333 miles

(Starting position: 333 miles)

1. Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 500

2. Matt Kenseth, Ford, 499

3. Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 500

4. Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 499

5. Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 499

6. Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 499

7. Mark Martin, Ford, 499

8. Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 499

9. Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 499

10. Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 499

11. Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 499

12. Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 499

13. Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 499

14. Matt Kenseth, Ford, 499

15. Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 499

16. Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 499

17. Matt Kenseth, Ford, 499

18. Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 499

19. Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 499

20. Matt Kenseth, Ford, 499

19. (6) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 497

20. (20) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 497

21. (22) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

22. (23) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

23. (24) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

24. (25) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 496

25. (26) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 497

26. (27) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

27. (28) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

28. (29) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

29. (30) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

30. (31) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

31. (32) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

32. (33) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

33. (34) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

34. (35) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

35. (36) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

36. (37) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

37. (38) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

38. (39) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

39. (40) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

40. (41) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

41. (42) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

42. (43) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

43. (44) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

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46. (47) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

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61. (62) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

62. (63) Jeffery Mayfield, Dodge, 496

63. (64) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 497, 537.5

Bush helps USC overcome Virginia Tech

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Reggie Bush came out of the backfield to give Southern California a new big-play receiver.

The tailback caught three long touchdown passes to help the top-ranked Trojans beat Virginia Tech 24-13 in a sloppy opener Saturday night in the Black Coaches Association Classic.

"He's a special player, and he proved it tonight," USC quarterback Matt Leinart said. "He's real fast, he's got great hands and he can make defenses kind of look silly out there sometimes."

Bush caught five passes for 127 yards.

"Reggie deserves to get the ball as much as you can get it to him," USC coach Pete Carroll said.

Bryan Randall led the Hokies with 153 yards and a score, and rushing for 82 yards. It was enough to make the defending champions work hard, but not nearly enough to pull the upset.

"I think there was a lot of people out there that didn't give us a chance," Randall said. "We proved them wrong."

The Trojans played their first game in two seasons without star receiver Mike Williams. USC found out Thursday that Williams would not be reinstated by the NCAA after his failed attempt to enter the NFL draft.

The Trojans said they were prepared to be without the All-American Williams and would be OK with a group of talented but inexperienced receivers.

The results showed otherwise. Breaking in a new group of starting wideouts, Leinart found few open targets in the first half, going 6-for-16 for 102 yards. And the Trojans' rebuilt offensive line was providing sketchy protection.

So the junior looked to Bush, and the explosive sophomore



USC tailback Reggie Bush races past Virginia Tech's Xavier Adibi (11) and Darryl Tapp (55) for a touchdown.

came through when the Trojans looked as if they were in big trouble — trailing 10-7 late in the third quarter.

Bush lined up as a wide receiver, blew by Virginia Tech's best cornerback, Jimmy Williams, and cradled in a perfect over-the-shoulder throw from Leinart for a 53-yard touchdown with 1:55 left in the third.

Bush also opened the scoring by taking a middle screen 35 yards for a TD in the first quarter.

Otherwise, an offense that averaged 41 points and 447 yards last season struggled for most of three quarters against a Virginia Tech defense that is coming off its worst season in years.

Wide receivers Steve Smith, Dwayne Jarrett and Chris McFoy combined for eight catches and 87 yards.

Leinart picked it up in the second half and finished 19-for-29 for 272 yards, hitting 11 straight at one point. He finally found a wide receiver for long gain

when he hit Smith for 46 yards in the fourth quarter.

On the next play, Bush sneaked out of the backfield and Leinart found him all alone for a 29-yard score that made it 21-13 with 5:35 left and finally allowed the outnumbered Trojans fans among the 91,665 at sold-out FedEx Field to relax a little.

For a while, it looked as if the Hokies might get their first victory against a No. 1 team in seven years.

As the Trojans failed to connect

in the first half, Randall and the Hokies gained confidence and found a groove.

Randall's runs accounted for the bulk of the Hokies' early offense. The elusive senior had 87 yards rushing on six carries in the first quarter, which ended with USC up 7-3.

"I think things opened up for me tonight," Randall said.

In the second quarter, Randall burned the Trojans with his arm.

He went 5-for-5 for 65 yards during a 10-play, 80-yard drive that culminated with a 12-yard touchdown pass to Josh Hyman. The 177-point underdog Hokies, unranked entering the season for the first time since 1998, took a 10-7 lead into halftime.

The Hokies had things going their way in the second half, too, until an offensive pass interference call on Hyman wiped out a long gain and led to a punt.

"The momentum just switched right there," Randall said.

USC took advantage on the next possession, sending Bush deep for the lead.

No. 1 USC 24, Virginia Tech 13

Virginia Tech 3 9 11

USC — Bush 35 pass from Leinart (Killeen kick), 5:29.

USC — Bush 35 pass from Leinart (Killeen kick), 1:55.

USC — Bush 53 pass from Leinart (Killeen kick), 1:55.

USC — Bush 53 pass from Leinart (Killeen kick), 5:35.

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Coughlin announces Warner to start Giants opener

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Eli Manning remains the New York Giants' quarterback of the future. For now, the job belongs to Kurt Warner.

Briefly citing Warner's experience and recent play, coach Tom Coughlin announced Sunday that the two-time MVP had beaten out the No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft for the starting job in the season opener at Philadelphia on Sept. 12.

"We give Kurt the ball and say, 'Kurt, let's go win,'" Coughlin said, ending a competition that has dominated training camp.

The choice wasn't surprising in the wake of Friday's 17-10 loss to the Jets. Warner played well and Manning did not during his worst day on the field since signing a \$45 million contract in late July.

Warner hit nine of 11 passes for 104 yards, leading the Giants to their only touchdown against the Jets. Manning was 4-for-14 for 20 yards, with two intercep-

tions and a fumble that was returned for a Jets touchdown.

Coughlin's decision puts Manning in a backup role for the first time since his red-shirt freshman year at Mississippi in 2000, when Romanus Miller started.

"I figured it might come. It doesn't change anything. I still have a lot to learn."

That's why the Giants signed the 33-year-old Warner in June after he was released by the St. Louis Rams. It was expected that he would be the caretaker quarterback until Manning, the brother of co-MVP Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts, was ready.

Bennett questionable for opener

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings running back Michael Bennett will miss 1-3 weeks after spraining his right knee in Friday's exhibition victory over San Francisco.

Bennett, injured in the third quarter on a low hit by 49ers safety Erik Totten, underwent an MRI exam Saturday that revealed more damage than originally diagnosed. He won't play in Thursday's exhibition fi-

nale at Seattle and is questionable for Minnesota's season opener Sept. 12 against Dallas.

"He might be a little iffy for the opener," Vikings coach Mike Tice said.

Short-yardage specialist Mike Williams will start in Bennett's place on Thursday and would start against Dallas if Bennett isn't ready. Rookie Melwede Moore and Larry Ned also will see action.

Ontario Smith, Bennett's top backup, likely will miss the first four games of the season for violating the NFL's substance-abuse rule.

Rams place Turley on injured reserve

ST. LOUIS — Starting right tackle Kyle Turley will miss the season after being placed on injured reserve Saturday by the St. Louis Rams.

Turley reinjured his surgically repaired back in late July and left training camp Aug. 1. Rams coach Mike Martz had previously said it would take weeks to know Turley's prognosis.

The loss of Turley is the latest in a series of offensive line problems for the Rams, who are without star left tackle Orlando

Prace, a contract holdout. Backup tackle Grant Williams has been bothered by an ankle injury and St. Louis cut center Dave Wollabaugh because of a hip injury.

Veterans Chris Dishman and Tom Tuten were lured out of retirement.

Bills lose Milloy, backup QB to injuries

INDIANAPOLIS — Buffalo lost starting safety Lawyer Milloy and backup quarterback Travis Brown with injuries during Saturday night's 20-17 exhibition loss to the Indianapolis Colts.

Milloy broke his right forearm when he jarred the ball loose from Colts receiver Brandon Stokley in the third quarter. He was scheduled for surgery Sunday.

"I think my hand got caught in the turf," Milloy said. "I couldn't feel anything in my fingers. I just sat there and held my arm."

Bills officials did not say how much time Milloy would miss. Milloy said he hoped to return for the season opener against Jacksonville.

Brown injured his left knee. Bills officials were uncertain of the severity of the injury.

NFL
briefs

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division		L	Pct	GB
New York	81	62.9	41%	
Baltimore	79	61.3	38%	4 1/2
Tampa Bay	69	45.7	21%	17 1/2
Boston	67	45.2	21%	18 1/2
Toronto	57	41.2	27%	28 1/2

Central Division		L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	72	57	55%	
Cleveland	66	50	7%	7 1/2
Chicago	60	53	58%	4 1/2
Detroit	50	40	42%	12 1/2
Kansas City	45	38.3	26%	19 1/2

West Division		L	Pct	GB
Oakland	75	53	58%	
Seattle	73	56	52%	2 1/2
Los Angeles	68	50	42%	7 1/2
Texas	56	42	27%	15 1/2
San Francisco	47	36	20%	24 1/2

Saturday's games		L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Yankees 1b, Toronto 3				
Seattle 5, Kansas City 7, 1st game				
Chicago White Sox 1b, Kansas City 3				

Sunday's games		L	Pct	GB
Baltimore 3, Anaheim 1				
Boston 5, Detroit 1				
Boston 5, Kansas City 3				
Boston 5, Baltimore 3				
Oakland 5, Minnesota 3				
Cleveland 3, Chicago White Sox 0				
Boston 5, Detroit 1				
Boston 5, N.Y. Yankees 4				
Baltimore 3, Texas 1				
Kansas City at Seattle				
Minnesota at Anaheim				
Tampa Bay at Oakland				

Monday's games		L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia (Meyers 4-3) at Chicago White Sox (Schwehenski 5-3)				
Detroit (Roberston 11-7) at Kansas City (Hendrix 10-1)				

Tuesday's games		L	Pct	GB
Anaheim at Baltimore				
Seattle at Toronto				
Chicago White Sox at Baltimore				
Tampa Bay at Minnesota				
Detroit at Kansas City				

Saturday		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

MINNESOTA		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

ANAHEIM		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

Shane's		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

Jhonny		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

Shane's		L	Pct	GB
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Jhonny		L	Pct	GB
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Jhonny		L	Pct	GB
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Shane's		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

E-Guel (2), Berroa (23), Lopez (6). DP-Kansas City 1, Seattle 1. LOB-Kansas City 8, Seattle 25. Randa (2), Winslow (2), Jacobson (7), BBone (23), Lopez (3). R-Raúl (5), Randa (5), Jacobson (9). B-Winn (18). CS-Berroa (7), BBone (4), Oacachica (3). S-Buck, Bloomquist.	5 (2) 1 SF																																										
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Central Division		L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	72	57	55%	
Cleveland	66	50	7%	7 1/2
Chicago	60	53	58%	4 1/2
Detroit	50	40	42%	12 1/2
Kansas City	45	38.3	26%	19 1/2

West Division		L	Pct	GB
Oakland	75	53	58%	
Seattle	73	56	52%	2 1/2
Los Angeles	68	50	42%	7 1/2
Texas	56	42	27%	15 1/2
San Francisco	47	36	20%	24 1/2

Saturday's games		L	Pct	GB
N.Y. Yankees 1b, Toronto 3				
Seattle 5, Kansas City 7, 1st game				
Chicago White Sox 1b, Kansas City 3				

Sunday's games		L	Pct	GB
Baltimore 3, Anaheim 1				
Boston 5, Detroit 1				
Boston 5, Kansas City 3				
Boston 5, Baltimore 3				
Oakland 5, Minnesota 3				
Cleveland 3, Chicago White Sox 0				
Boston 5, Detroit 1				
Boston 5, N.Y. Yankees 4				
Baltimore 3, Texas 1				
Kansas City at Seattle				
Minnesota at Anaheim				
Tampa Bay at Oakland				

Monday's games		L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia (Meyers 4-3) at Chicago White Sox (Schwehenski 5-3)				
Detroit (Roberston 11-7) at Kansas City (Hendrix 10-1)				

Tuesday's games		L	Pct	GB
Anaheim at Baltimore				
Seattle at Toronto				
Chicago White Sox at Baltimore				
Tampa Bay at Minnesota				
Detroit at Kansas City				

Saturday		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

MINNESOTA		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

ANAHEIM		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

Shane's		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

Jhonny		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

Shane's		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

Jhonny		L	Pct	GB
Twins 7, Angels 1				

Cards' Pujols reaches milestone numbers

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Albert Pujols hit his 40th home run and reached 100 RBIs for the fourth consecutive season, and the St. Louis Cardinals completed a three-game sweep of the Pittsburgh Pirates with a 4-0 victory on Sunday.

Pujols became the fourth player to drive in 100 runs in each of his first four seasons, joining Hall of Famers Al Simmons, Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams.

Jason Marquis (13-4) held the Pirates to four hits in 7 1/3 shutout innings to win his 10th straight decision.

Ray King got one out in the eighth and Julian Tavaraz got four outs for his fourth save in St. Louis' 10th shutout.

Pujols' first triple of the season keyed a two-run third inning for St. Louis. Roger Cedeno scored on the triple and Pujols came home on Scott Rolen's single.

Pujols hit his 40th homer in the eighth for a 4-0 lead.

Phillies 10, Brewers 0: Cory Lidle homered and threw a four-hitter for his second shutout of the season, Marlon Byrd hit a grand slam and had five RBIs, and the host Phillies extended Milwaukee's losing streak to 11.

Lidle (8-12) was terrific in his first win with the Phillies, striking out a season-high nine, walking one and not allowing a runner past second base in his fourth career shutout. The right-hander was 6-2 with a no-decision since he was acquired from Cincinnati on Aug. 9.

Dodgers 10, Mets 2: Robin Ventura hit his 17th grand slam, tying Jimmie Fox and Ted Williams for fourth place on the career list, and the visiting Dodgers went on to an easy victory.

Los Angeles, which maintained its five-game lead in the NL West, scored three unearned runs in the fourth inning to take a 4-1 lead against the league's worst-fielding team. Ventura, making only his 19th start of the season, broke the game open in the fifth against Kris Benson (10-11), scoring the 1,000th run of his ca-



Los Angeles' Robin Ventura watches his grand slam during the fifth inning of Sunday's game in New York. Mets catcher Jason Phillips watches the ball. The Dodgers won 10-2.

reer on the homer. Kazuhisa Ishii (13-6) won his second straight start after going 0-1 during a five-start span. He allowed one run and four hits in six innings.

Padres 11, Expos 3: David Wells won his seventh consecutive road decision and helped himself with an RBI single.

Ryan Klesko and Khalil Greene each hit two-run homers for San Diego.

Wells (9-7) allowed eight hits and three

runs in seven innings, improving to 3-0 in his last four starts overall. His two-out single in the fourth scored Klesko and put San Diego up 4-0.

Reds 6, Diamondbacks 2: Edgar Gonzalez held Cincinnati hitless through six innings, but Adam Dunn's 39th homer helped the host Reds rally past Arizona.

Ryan Freed drove in the go-ahead run with an eighth-inning single off Mike Fet-

ters (0-1) and the Reds avoided a three-game sweep.

Gonzalez faced the minimum 18 batters through six innings before Freed left off the seventh with a walk. Felipe Lopez followed with a chopper to first and was credited with an infield single when Gonzalez failed to cover the base.

Astros 10, Cubs 3: Lance Berkman homered and Carlos Hernandez earned his first major league win in more than two years as Houston won its third in a four-game set at Chicago.

Houston's Carlos Beltran left with a bruised knee after he was hit by a pitch in the eighth. Berkman was plunked in the helmet later in the inning, and the benches emptied when the Cubs' Derrek Lee was hit in the back with a pitch in the ninth.

In NL games Saturday:

Astros 7, Cubs 6: Roger Clemens pitched six innings for his 324th victory and the visiting Astros made the most of three Cubs errors.

Clemens (14-4) allowed five runs and eight hits as Houston won for the 10th time in 13 games. Staked to a 5-0 lead, Clemens tied Don Sutton and Nolan Ryan for 12th on the career victory list.

Marlins 4, Rockies 3: Juan Encarnacion hit a two-run single in the first inning and the visiting Marlins made the most of three Rockies' losing streak to six.

Padres 5, Expos 2: Jake Peavy won his sixth straight decision and Phil Nevin homered and drove in three runs for visiting San Diego.

Peavy (11-3), unbeaten in nine starts since the All-Star break, held Montreal to five hits and two runs in 6 1/3 innings. It was the 18th time in 20 starts he's allowed two earned runs or less.

Phillies 4, Brewers 3: Placido Polanco homered off Mike Adams (2-2) with one out in the ninth and the host Phillies extended Milwaukee's losing streak to 10.

Diamondbacks 6, Reds 3: Casey Fossum (4-12) combined with four relievers on a four-hitter and Juan Brito singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning for visiting Arizona.

Red Sox make it six straight wins

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Tim Lincecum allowed three hits in eight innings and the Boston Red Sox won their sixth straight game with a 6-1 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Sunday.

Combined with New York's 6-4 loss at Toronto, Boston closed within 4 1/2 games of the Yankees in the AL East.

Wakfield (11-7) gave up only Nook Logan's double in the third, Craig Monroe's 10th homer in the fifth and Logan's single in the eighth.

The Red Sox scored four runs in the fifth off Wilfredo Ledezma (3-2) and two in the seventh on Mark Bellhorn's 14th homer against Craig Diamond.

Blue Jays 6, Yankees 4: Carlos Delgado homered in Toronto's five-run seventh and the host Blue Jays ended a five-game losing skid.

Tony Batista (10-10) won for the first time since July 22 — a span of seven starts — and allowed seven runs and seven hits in seven innings.

Indians 9, White Sox 0: Scott Elarton (3-3) pitched a two-hitter

AL Roundup

for his first career shutout and Casey Blake hit two of host Cleveland's four homers.

Travis Hafner and Ronnie Belliard also connected for Cleveland. Blake drove in four runs.

Orioles 7, Rangers 6: Melvin Mora drove in four runs and visiting Baltimore snapped a 12-game losing streak, the club's longest since dropping the final 12 games of the 2002 season.

Steve Fenson (9-13) allowed five runs and 12 hits — 11 singles — in seven innings, but won for the sixth time in his last seven decisions. He struck out six and walked none.

Jorge Julio got five outs for his 19th save in 21 chances.

In AL games Saturday:

Yankees 18, Blue Jays 6: Tony Clark homered three times for the first time in his career. Ruben Sierra hit a grand slam for his 300th homer and Gary Sheffield and Alex Rodriguez also connected for visiting New York.

Mariners 9-5, Royals 7-3:

Randy Winn hit a two-run homer in the 12th, helping the host Mariners complete a doubleheader sweep. Bucky Jacobsen drove in three runs with a home run and a double in the opener.

Twins 7, Angels 1: Johan Santana (15-6) won his eighth straight decision, allowing one run and four hits in seven innings in stopping host Anaheim's nine-game winning streak.

Red Sox 5, Tigers 1: Pedro Martinez (14-5) struck out eight to move into the top 20 on the career list with 2,614 and the host Red Sox stretched their winning streak to five.

Rangers 4, Orioles 3: Rod Barajas homered and drove in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly and the host Rangers extended the Orioles' season-high losing streak to 12 games.

Athletics 5, Devil Rays 4: Eric Chavez homered for the third straight game and Tim Lincecum (10-4) won his third straight start.

White Sox 5, Indians 3: Paul Konerko hit a three-run homer and Jose Contreras (12-6) outlasted a 2-hour, 46-minute rain delay.

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Six-week slide over for Little E

Earnhardt dominates at Bristol; Schumacher clinches F-1 crown

The Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. acknowledged his team was in a slump. Then he set out to end it.

Mission accomplished. Earnhardt broke out of a six-week dry spell Saturday night with a convincing victory in the Sharpie 500, giving him a week-end sweep at Bristol Motor Speedway and momentum for the upcoming

Racing roundup

Nextel Cup championship chase.

"This is huge for me, it's awesome for our team," Earnhardt Jr. said. "The team really needed that. I watched my Daddy race here so many times... wherever he's at, he's laughing at this butt-kicking."

His team was in free fall, and nothing the driver or crew tried could fix it.

"This ought to do it."

"This team is tough as nails!" he screamed in Victory Lane. "Man, we needed this. This is one of the biggest wins of my career. You can't be No. 1 all the time. That's what makes it sweeter."

Almost completely healed from burns received last month in a non-NASCAR wreck, Earnhardt led 295 of 500 laps for his first Nextel Cup victory at Bristol. He'll stick the trophy right next to the one he earned Friday series for winning his first Busch series race on the 0.533-mile bullring.

He beat Ryan Newman to the

finish line in Saturday night's race that didn't shake up the championship standings as much as predicted.

Newman, fighting to become eligible for NASCAR's 10-race championship chase, moved into contention by jumping three spots to the cutoff position of 10th. It came at the expense of rookie Kasey Kahne, who finished 21st and fell to 11th in the driver standings.

It was the only major change in the standings as drivers scramble to make it into the top 10 with just two races to go before the playoffs begin.

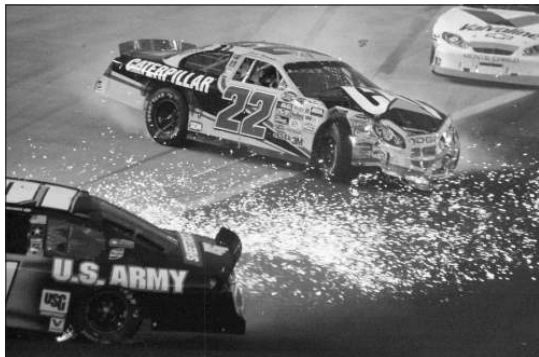
Kahne is 26 points out of the top 10 and Jeremy Mayfield, his teammate, is right behind in 12th. But time is running out on the Everharm Motorsports pair, and everyone else behind them, too.

The name of the game now is putting together solid runs and getting teams in sync right before the chase begins. Jimmie Johnson did it by ending his streak of three straight DNFs with a third-place finish.

But it was Junior who made the loudest statement by pulling off a victory when almost everyone had written off the team.

It didn't help that his legs were so badly burned in a practice session for a sports car race in California that Earnhardt twice had to give way to a relief driver, too hurt and too frustrated to stay in his car.

Things started to get better two weeks ago with a fifth-place finish



Sparks fly as Scott Wimmer (22) tries to avoid Joe Nemechek, left, in Saturday night's race in Bristol, Tenn.

ish on the demanding road course at Watkins Glen.

Now comes this victory, which had Earnhardt almost giddy in Victory Lane.

Jeff Burton finished fourth in his new Richard Childress-owned ride. Elliott Sadler was fifth, followed by Sterling Marlin and Jamie McMurray.

Kurt Busch, who won the past three Bristol races, finished eighth, one lap down. Matt Kenseth was ninth and Dale Jarrett 10th.

Pole-sitter Jeff Gordon, the points leader who was seeking his series-best sixth victory of the season, was black-flagged late in the race for lining up in the wrong place on a restart. He finished 14th, but maintained his hold on the top spot.

"That's the hardest-fought, 14th-place finish I've ever had at Bristol," he said. "I think they really made a big mistake on the call there for black-flagging me."

Schumacher clinches seventh title despite finishing second

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium — Michael Schumacher clinched an unprecedented seventh Formula One drivers' title in the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday despite not winning for just the second time in 14 races this season.

McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen was the winner on the hilly Spa circuit, the Finn's second career victory. Schumacher came in second and earned his fifth straight drivers' title.

"It's a great day for all of us, and I'm just delighted and happy," Schumacher said. "Obviously, I would rather have wrapped up the championship with a victory, but we weren't strong enough in the right moment."

Schumacher finished second to Raikkonen by 3.1 seconds after falling back early to sixth place. He needed to score only two

more points than Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello to take the title.

Barrichello was third, 4.3 seconds behind the winner on the 4.3-mile circuit. He was followed by Sauber's Felipe Massa and Giancarlo Fisichella and Jaguar's Christian Klien.

Schumacher's title completes a Ferrari sweep of the season after the Fiat-owned team claimed its sixth straight constructors' crown two weeks ago in Hungary. Schumacher's only other loss this season came in Monaco in May.

Raikkonen averaged 123.589 mph for McLaren's first victory since he won in Malaysia in 2003.

Through 14 races, Schumacher has 128 points and a 40-point lead over Barrichello. Although Barrichello has a mathematical chance to tie the German in points, Schumacher would win in a tiebreaker by virtue of having won more races than his teammate.

Jimenez wins; Ryder spots set

The Associated Press

NORD RICHENRIED, Germany — Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez won the BMW Open, his fourth title on the European tour this season, and Colin Montgomerie was one of six golfers to claim Ryder Cup berths on Sunday.

Europe captain Bernhard Langer chose Montgomerie and Luke Donald with his captain's picks, giving England five players on a team that will try to retain the Ryder Cup against the United States on Sept. 17-19 at

Oakland Hills outside Detroit.

Paul Casey finished third Sunday to secure one of four guaranteed spots and was joined by countrymen David Howell and Ian Poulter and Irishman Paul McGinley.

Jimenez birdied Nos. 11, 13 and 14 to break open a duel with France's Thomas Levet and win by two strokes at 21-under 267. He finished with a 66.

Ochoa rallies to win

KUTZTOWN, Pa. — Lorena Ochoa birdied three of the last four holes, completing a rally from a five-stroke deficit to win the Wachovia LPGA Classic by two shots over Grace Park.

Ochoa shot a 7-under-par 65 and finished at 19-under 269 for her second career victory.

She took the lead for good when Park, the third-round leader, bogeyed the 15th — one of her three bogeys on the back nine. Park closed with a 72 after setting a

tournament record through 54 holes with a total of 17-under 199. This was the first time in Park's pro career she lost a tournament after leading after three rounds.

Hee-Won Han (67) and Jill McGill (73) finished four strokes back at 273.

Funk leads Buick

CROMWELL, Conn. — Fred Funk shot a 1-under 69 for a one-stroke lead over Tom Byrum (67) and Corey Pavin (68) after three rounds of the Buick Championship.

Funk, who shared the second-round lead, was at 9-under 201. Hunter Mahan (65) and Joey Sindelar (68) were two strokes back. Skip Kendall and Hank Kuehne were among nine at 6-under.

Two share Tradition lead

ALOHA, Ore. — Vicente Fernandez birdied the final hole Saturday for a 6-under 66 and a share of the third-round lead with Peter Jacobsen (69) at 12-under in the Tradition, the Champions Tour's last major of the year.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Intruder pushes marathon leader out of contention

BY BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Italy's Stefano Baldini surged ahead with two miles to go and won the Olympic marathon Sunday, while American Meb Keflezighi finished a surprising second in a race disrupted by a costumed intruder who grabbed the runner who had lost most of the way and pushed him into the crowd.

With three miles left, Vanderlei de Lima of Brazil was clinging to a strinking lead when he was shoved into the curbstone through by a man dressed in a green beret, red kilt and knee-high green socks.

De Lima was able to get back into the race, but he lost several more seconds and ended up with the bronze medal.

The 29-year-old Keflezighi, who emigrated from the African nation of Eritrea at age 10, is the first American to medal in the men's marathon since Frank Shorter's silver in 1976. Deena Kastor won the bronze in the women's marathon a week ago, marking the first time the United States had won two medals in the 26.2-mile race at the same Olympics.

"USA running is back," Keflezighi said. "Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. Coming in I was not a favorite, I'm just very happy to win a silver."

De Lima drew big cheers from the crowd at the finish line in Panathinaiko Stadium — the beautiful marble structure that was the site of the first modern Olympics 108 years ago.

He said the intruder cost him a shot at the gold. "When I saw the man who was jumping on me I was scared, because I didn't know what could happen to me, whether he was armed with a knife, a revolver or something and whether he was going to kill me," de Lima said.

A protest filed by the Brazilian track federation asking that de Lima be given a duplicate gold was



A man Greek police identified as Cornelius Horan, right, grabs runner Vanderlei de Lima during the men's marathon in Athens on Sunday.

denied by the International Association of Athletics Federations. Brazil said it would appeal that decision to the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport, whose decision would be final.

The International Olympic Committee said it would present de Lima with the Pierre de Coubertin medal in recognition of his "exceptional demonstration of fair play and Olympic values."

Police quickly tackled and arrested the intruder, who had a piece of paper attached to his back bearing the message: "The Grand Prix Priest Israel Fulfillment of Prophecy Says the Bible."

De Lima pushed himself free and kept running, but he was passed a mile later.

Police identified the intruder as Cornelius Horan, an Irish citizen. In July 2003, Horan, wearing a costume and message similar to Sunday's, ran onto the track during the British Grand Prix and stayed there for more than 20 seconds, forcing racers to swerve around him.

U.S. left to rethink Dream Team plan

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Standing on the lowest of the three medal podiums, Richard Jefferson couldn't resist sneaking a peek.

Standing above him one spot is the gold medal Argentina guard Pepe Sanchez, who was about to have a gold medal draped around his neck, and Jefferson's eyes were drawn to the reward he could only look at, not touch.

It will be at least four years before another U.S. men's basketball player gets that close to the gold, and it could be even longer before an American is on the receiving end of a jealous gaze.

The Athens Games hammered home a point: The world hasn't just caught up in the 12 years since the Dream Team was born. It has sped past and left the United States in its wake.

Shame should not be attached to the team, though the questions beginning with the word "Why" are legitimate.

Some of the answers: They didn't practice together long enough. They weren't familiar with each other, nor with the rules or intricacies of international basketball. They didn't have pure shooters. They didn't adapt to their coach, nor to the time.

But at least they showed up. If blame is to be cast on anyone, it should go to the players — including Shaquille O'Neal, Kevin Garnett, Mike Bibby, Ray Allen, Kenyon Martin and Ben Wallace — who refused to come.

"The only thing that bothered me was when I heard so many people talking so bad about the guys on this team. It was disrespectful, it was ignorant," Jefferson said.

They want to say the 12 guys who decided to come don't care, they're not playing hard enough, they're not playing together. Why? Because you lose a game?

"Just because you lose a game doesn't mean you're not playing together. It just means you're unfamiliar with one another. That was some of the most ignorant stuff I've ever heard," he said.

The Americans headed home Sunday. No doubt it was a quiet trip for the men, whose faces be-

trayed their frustration as the medals were handed out.

Carmelo Anthony stood on the podium shaking his head from side to side. A couple of players gave halfhearted waves to the handful of American fans. Iverson and Marbury exchanged glances and a giggled self-consciously as wreaths were placed atop their heads.

As the bronze medals were placed around their necks, the players from Argentina ignored the Americans as they turned to their fans, danced and exchanged salutes, smiles and raised fists.

Nothing remotely resembling a smile crossed Iverson's face as the Argentinean anthem played and the country's flag was raised to the rafters. Iverson stared at the flags, the enormity of the moment seeming to strike him hard.

The Americans waited no time walking off after the ceremony. Argentina's squad, the core of which has played together in international tournaments since 1996, remained on the court and celebrated for 20 minutes.

"The most special thing you can do is win for your country," Argentina guard Manu Ginobili said. "We win in soccer in the morning and then in basketball. Argentina is on top of the world because it is on top of the two biggest sports in the world today."

America will have to go back to the drawing board.

USA basketball president Tom Jerne said the federation has already kicked around ideas for how to select a team for the Beijing Games in 2008, from giving the coach a greater say in picking the roster, to bringing in the NBA champions, to conducting tryouts ahead of a training camp.

He conceded the Americans might have been too slow to adapt to changes in the world basketball landscape, sticking too long with the formula first used in 1992 — picking the 12 best players they can find and throwing them out there in the belief that sheer talent would overwhelm the opposition.

"We'll go back and review and figure out if there's a better way of doing it," Jerne said. "Leaving with a gold and a bronze is not quite what we expected."

Olympics scoreboard

Sunday's scores

TEAM HANDBALL	
Men	
Gold medal	Russia 24, Croatia 26
Silver medal	Spain 24, Argentina 20
Bronze medal	Denmark 28, South Korea 20
Volleyball	
Men	
Gold medal	Russia 3, United States (25-22, 27-25, 25-16)
Silver medal	Italy 3, Brazil 1 (25-15, 24-25, 25-20, 25-22)
Wrestling	
Men	
Gold medal	United States 3, Italy 8
Silver medal	Germany 6, Spain 4
Bronze medal	Russia 6, Greece 5
Gold medal	Hungary 8, Serbia-Montenegro 7
Taekwondo	
Men	
Gold medal	Pascal Gentil, France, def. Ibrahim Kamal, Jordan, 6-2.

Moon Dae Sung, South Korea, def. Alexandros Nikolaidis, Greece, 10, 21:11.

Over 67kg
Bronze medal
Adriana Carmoza, Venezuela, def. Natalia Silva, Brazil, 7-4.

Gold medal
Chen Zhong, China, def. Myrland Bavevel, France, 12-5.

Over 67kg
Bronze medal
Kenji Inoue, Japan, def. Vasyl Fedoryshyn, Ukraine, 6-5.

Gold medal
Yandro Miguel Quintana Rivilla, Cuba, def. Masoud Mostafa Gokar, Iran, 4-0.

Over 81 kg
Bronze medal
Ivan Funderburk, Cuba, def. Krystian Brzozowski, Poland, 3-1.

Gold medal
Buyuya Sayiev, Russia, def. Gennady Lailiev, Kazakhstan, 5-0.

Over 96kg
Bronze medal
Heldur Hafthorsson, Iceland, def. Daniel Cormier, Stillwater, Okla., 3-2.

Gold medal
Khadimourat Gatsalov, Russia, def. Magomed Ismagilov, Uzbekistan, 4-1.

Over 67kg
Bronze medal
Yan Bhardetemy Vargis, Cuba, def. Atagun Yachakaya, Turkey, 25-16.

Over 81 kg
Bronze medal
Guillermo Rigondeaux, Ortiz, Cuba, def. Worapop Petchkoon, Thailand, 22-13.

Over 91 kg
Bronze medal
Mario Cesar Rindell Mesa, Cuba, def. Amir Khan, Britain, 30-22.

Over 91 kg
Bronze medal
Bakhtiyar Artyev, Kazakhstan, def. Lorenzo Aragon Armenteros, Cuba, 36-26.

Over 91 kg
Bronze medal
Andre Ward, Calif., def. Magomed Aliyev, Belarus, 20-13.

Over 91 kg
Bronze medal
Alexander Povetkin, Russia, def. Mohamed Ali, Egypt, Walkover.

Track and field

Men's Marathon
1. Stefano Baldini, Italy, 2:10:35.
2. Mebratmon Keflezighi, San Diego, 2:11:29.
3. Vanderlei de Lima, Brazil, 2:12:11.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

U.S. wrestlers Cormier, Williams denied medals

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Daniel Cormier went down without a fight this time, and without an Olympic wrestling medal.

Cormier, America's last medal hope in freestyle, couldn't hold a 2-0 overtime lead Sunday and lost the bronze 3-2 to Iran's Ali Reza Heidari in the 21½-pound (96-kg) class.

Heidari's dominance of Cormier was similar to that of last year's world championships, a match that turned ugly when Cormier became enraged at Heidari's on-mat victory celebration and shoved him in the back.

After the latest loss, Cormier was left to lash out only at himself.

"I don't know what happened, I really don't know," said Cormier, from Stillwater, Okla. "This was a big match for me, and I just wasn't able to get it done. I just stopped wrestling. I just should have kept doing what I did the whole match."

Earlier in the day, Cormier lost his semifinal match 5-0 in overtime to Russia's Khadimourat Zatsalov, who then beat Magomed Ibrahimov of Uzbekistan 4-1 for the gold.

Sunday proved to be a washout for the U.S. freestyle team, with three-time NCAA champion Joe Williams losing 3-2 in overtime to Kazakhstan's Genadiy Lalayev in an elimination match at 163 pounds (74kg). Williams finished fifth.

The seven-man U.S. freestyle team left Athens with three medals, Cael Sanderson's gold and silvers by Jamill Kelly and Stephen Abas.

For five-time world champion Bouvassais Saitiev of Russia, his gold in the 163-pound class was partial redemption for his upset loss to Slay in the 2000 Games — his only defeat in a world championship since 1995. Saitiev took the gold by beating Lalayev 7-0.

Yandry Quintana, last year's world runner-up from Cuba, won at 132 pounds (60 kg) by beating Masoud Jokar of Iran 4-0.

Volleyball

Men's: Brazil backed up its No. 1 world ranking with a gold-medal final Sunday to a near-perfect Olympics, beating rival Italy in the final.

Gilberto Godoy Filho had 20 points to lead the Brazilians to a 25-16, 24-26, 25-20, 25-22 victory. Brazil has been a major international power for the past decade, but this was its first Olympic medal since a gold in 1992.

"We are winners," said Godoy Filho, who was named the tournament's most valuable player. "We were here for first place. Every player had this and only this in his mind. I am so happy."

Russia won this year's bronze by beating the United States in straight sets earlier Sunday.

It's just so disappointing to have no opportunity to get back on the medal stand and not play your best," outside hitter Reid Priddy said.

While the U.S. team made great strides since a disastrous 0-5 showing in Sydney four years ago, the weekend proved that Americans are just not quite ready to be included in the world's elite with Brazil, Italy, Russia and Serbia-Montenegro.

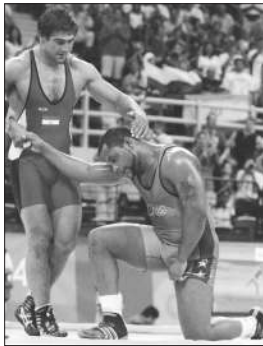
Team handball

Men's: World champion Croatia won the men's handball gold medal Sunday, finishing an undefeated run through the Olympic tournament with a 26-24 victory over Germany.

The Croatians won in Atlanta in 1996, but failed to qualify for the Sydney Games four years ago. They won the world championship in Portugal last year.

Women's: Denmark won its third consecutive Olympic title, defeating South Korea 4-2 in a penalty shootout after playing to a 34-34 tie at the end of two overtime periods.

Danish goalkeeper Karin Elmhøj Mortensen had two saves, and Henriette Mikkelson scored the decisive goal in the shootout. The final was a rematch of the 1996 Atlanta Games, which Denmark also won, 37-33 in extra time.



Ali Reza Heidari, of Iran, aids Daniel Cormier, of the USA, after defeating him during a men's freestyle 96kg wrestling bronze medal bout on Sunday.

Water polo

Men's: Hungary won its eighth Olympic water polo gold medal, scoring three times in the last quarter to beat Serbia-Montenegro 8-7 on Sunday.

Russia beat Greece 6-5 for the bronze medal. The United States upset Italy 9-8 behind three goals apiece from Tony Azevedo and Jesse Smith to finish in seventh place.

In the title game, left-handed shooter Gergely Kiss scored four goals and Tamas Kasas had two for the defending world and Olympic champions.

The United States' win over an Italian team that finished second in the world championships provided an uplifting ending for the Americans, who were in a tough bracket.

"Winning that was totally important," Azevedo said. "The whole time, we've been saying the top three in our bracket are the three that are going to get the medals. This shows we could have been playing for a medal if we'd started in the other bracket."

Taekwondo

Men's over 80 kg: South Korea's Moon Dae-sung unleashed a wicked roundhouse kick that knocked out Alexandros Nikolaidis of Greece in the first round of Sunday's taekwondo heavyweight final.

Moon was leading 1-0 when he landed a high kick to the Greek fireman's head. The blow knocked Nikolaidis' helmet askew and he collapsed on the mat for several seconds before officials came over to help him up.

At 6 feet 7, most of Nikolaidis' competitors have a tough time lifting their legs up high enough to connect with his target points. But the 6-foot-3 Moon managed to catch Nikolaidis off guard and landed the rare knockout to claim his first Olympic gold medal.

Women's over 67 kg: China's Chen Zhong defeated Myriam Baverel of France 12-5 to successfully defend her gold medal from Sydney.

Rhythmic gymnastics

All-around: Four years after watching her medal hopes end when she lost control of her hoop, two-time world champion Alina Kabaeva from Russia won the rhythmic gymnastics all-around Sunday in a rout. She finished with 108,400 points, more than a point ahead of silver medalist Irina Tchachina of Russia. Anna Besonova of Ukraine took the bronze.



The United States' Darold Williamson celebrates after crossing the finish line to win the gold in the final leg of the 4 x 400-meter relay.

1,600 sweep revives U.S. relay teams

By ANDREA ADELSON

The Associated Press

Track and field

ATHENS, Greece — Lauryl Williams had a favor to ask Sanya Richards on Saturday morning: "Bring home a gold."

How about two?

The United States swept the 1,600-meter relays later in the evening, making up for the disappointment of the 400 relay teams. Richards led her 1,600 team to victory in 3 minutes, 19.01 seconds, while Jeremy Wariner powered the men to gold in 2:55.91 — just 17 seconds off the Olympic record. It was the seventh straight gold for Americans in that relay.

Williams was on the 400 relay that was knocked out Friday night when she couldn't execute the baton exchange with Marion Jones.

Then, on Saturday night, Justin Gatlin stepped on Coby Miller's shoe, slowing the men's 400 team down and costing it gold.

"She just wanted us to go out and bring home gold for them, and that's what we did," Richards said. "I'm just happy we were able to pull it off for the U.S."

After what happened to the 400 teams, the U.S. coaches told their runners to focus on getting clean handoffs, even though they are not as much of a factor in the longer relays.

So the team of DeeDee Trotter, Monique Henderson, Richards and Monique Hennagan went out and easily beat Russia, which took silver in 3:20.16. Jamaica won bronze in 3:22.

"Before we came out here, our coaches told us the running would be the easiest part, to focus on the small things like getting

the stick around, staying in the zone, not running out of our lanes early," Richards said. "Everybody was focused on it and it worked out really well for us."

It also made up somewhat for the 400-meter final, when Richards, Trotter and Hennagan failed to medal.

While they celebrated, the men's 1,600 team prepared to take the track with Wariner, Otis Harris and Derrick Brew — who swept the 400 earlier in the week.

Darold Williamson was selected to run anchor, a familiar position for him. He and Wariner ran together on the Baylor team that won the 1,600 relay earlier this year at the NCAA outdoor championships.

After they won the gold medal, Wariner announced he's turning pro.

"I've done all I can do. Now it's time for me to step to the next stage and see what I can do there," he said.

Australia took silver in 3:00.60, and Nigeria won bronze in 3:00.90.

"We prayed the Americans would do us a favor and drop the baton somewhere," said Enefok Udo Obong of Nigeria. "But Nigeria is as good as gold in Nigeria."

The United States has won the men's 1,600 relay every year since 1976, not including the boycotted Moscow Olympics.

"With all the problems the other teams were having, we just wanted to get the stick around and win a gold medal," Harris said.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Ward gives U.S. boxers lone golden moment

BY TIM DAHLBERG

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Andre Ward and his father had been too close not to share this moment, just like they shared everything else. Standing on the medal podium, Ward looked upward and blew a kiss to the man who had meant so much to him.

Frank Ward would have been proud of his son — an Olympic gold medalist.

"I believe he was looking down on me," Ward said. "I just wish he were here."

Boxing in the memory of his late father, Ward became the only American boxer to win a gold medal, beating Magomed Arapigadiev of Belarus on Sunday to claim the light heavyweight title.

Ward's father, who introduced his son to boxing, died suddenly two years ago and Ward boxed through the Olympics with a picture of him in his shoes. Deeply religious, he said he believes his father helped guide him to the gold.

"I felt his spirit all through this tournament," Ward said.

Ward's victory in the last fight of the Games salvaged what had been a bleak Olympics for the U.S. boxing team, which brought nine boxers to Athens but had only one bronze medal before Ward stepped into the ring.

Showing a maturity that most of his teammates lacked, Ward shook off a swollen eye to turn the fight around in the third round and win a 20-13 decision.

"I just couldn't see myself coming away with a bronze or silver medal," Ward said. "I couldn't see myself settling for that."

It was the first gold medal for the United States since David Reid's victory in 1996, and it couldn't have come at a better time for the beleaguered U.S. boxing program. American boxers seemed lost much of the time during these Games, unable to adapt to international scoring and unwilling to change their styles.

Not Ward, whose singular focus on winning a gold medal carried him to four victories and the top prize.

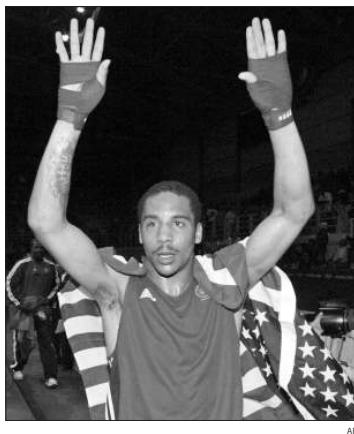
"If a lot of other guys on this team were mature like him and didn't lose discipline, they would have been here too," assistant U.S. coach Al Mitchell said. "He's a good role model and we need role models in this sport."

On a day when Cuba won two more golds and British teenage sensation Amir Khan came up short in his gold medal bout, Ward found his mark with quick inside punches in the third round to pull ahead.

Ward trailed after two rounds, but came on strong in the final two despite swinging around his right eye that coaches worked on in the corner between rounds. He won the third round 7-2, then remained aggressive with quick flourishes in the final round.

"I felt he was much quicker than me," Arapigadiev said.

Ward had a cheering section of family members rooting him on, an atmosphere much different



American And Ward, from Oakland, Calif., celebrates his gold medal victory after defeating Belarus' Magomed Arapigadiev during the light heavyweight boxing final in the 2004 Athens Games on Sunday.

than during Friday's semifinal bout, in which he was booed by the crowd from the moment he entered the arena.

He admitted that the pressure

of the moment slowed him in the first two rounds.

"I wasn't having fun the first two rounds. I was kind of tight because I've got the country and

world on my shoulders," Ward said. "But I loosened up and picked it up."

In previous Olympics, the 20-year-old father of two from Oakland, Calif., would have been an attractive candidate for a promoter to sign for big money. Because Olympic boxing wasn't widely shown on American television, though, Ward's market value won't be as high.

Still, he said he plans to pursue a pro career.

"I have to go home, settle down and see what's on the table," he said.

Cuba ended the boxing tournament with five gold medals, two more than Russia. Defending Olympic champion Guillermo Rigondeaux and Mario Kindelan both won, as did light flyweight Yari Bartelety.

The Cuban team didn't match the seven golds won in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, but was better than the four Cuba took home in each of the last two Games.

In perhaps the most anticipated final, Kindelan beat Khan for the lightweight gold.

Kindelan was too wily and experienced for the 17-year-old Khan, who had won four straight fights in impressive fashion.

Russian super heavyweight Alexander Povetkin, meanwhile, won a gold without having to throw a punch. Povetkin's opponent in the finals, Mohamed Ali of Egypt, failed the morning medical exam.

Americans earn heavy medal haul; China gains ground

BY DAVID CRARY

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The United States finished atop the medal charts for the third straight Summer Olympics, with Russia the overall runner-up. China was second in gold medals, its best showing ever and the leading edge of a surge by Asian teams.

Six nations won gold medals for the first time, the trailblazers including an Arab sheik marksmen and an Israeli windsurfer. Two other countries, Paraguay and Eritrea, won their first medals of any sort.

The American team amassed 103 medals, topping its target of 100, and won 35 golds to 32 for China and 27 for Russia. China played the lead role in the Games' most significant trend: The improvement of Asian squads in a widening array of Olympic sports as they gird for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Far East Asian nations won 63 gold medals in Athens, compared with 43 at Sydney in 2000. Japan alone upped its gold total from five to 16, the biggest increase of any nation, while China won golds for the first time in tennis and men's track.

"These were the games where we saw the awakening of Asia," International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said. "The traditional strong nations that dominate the scene now will have to work extremely hard."

Australian Olympic chief John Coates, whose team finished fourth, said China and Japan "have sent us an ominous warning. They're gearing up for a dominant performance in 2008."

Asia's gains came largely at the expense of Europe. Germany won 48 medals in Athens, nine fewer than in Sydney, and medal hauls also dropped for France, Italy, Poland, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Greece, despite drug scandals and other setbacks, won 16 medals, its best showing since it hosted the first modern Olympics in 1896.

2004 Olympic medals

Final 301 medal events

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	35	29	103	167
Russia	27	27	38	92
China	32	17	14	63
Australia	17	16	16	49
Japan	11	9	13	33
France	10	11	12	33
Italy	9	12	8	29
South Korea	9	9	12	30
Cuba	9	9	12	30
Ukraine	9	9	12	30
Romania	8	5	16	29
Spain	3	11	17	31
Belarus	6	3	17	26
Greece	6	6	16	28
Belgium	6	6	16	28
Canada	6	6	16	28
Bulgaria	4	3	10	17
Brazil	4	3	10	17
Poland	3	2	5	10
Denmark	2	0	6	8
Czech Republic	3	4	8	15
Sweden	2	0	6	8
Kazakhstan	2	0	6	8
Thailand	2	0	6	8
Uzbekistan	2	0	6	8
Ukraine	2	0	6	8
Ethiopia	2	0	6	8
Kenya	2	0	6	8
Norway	2	0	6	8
Iran	2	0	6	8
Slovakia	2	0	6	8

Argentina	1	0	0	1
South Africa	1	0	0	1
New Zealand	1	0	0	1
Taiwan	1	0	0	1
Jamaica	1	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	1	0	0	1
Croatia	1	0	0	1
Egypt	1	0	0	1
Switzerland	1	0	0	1
Azerbaijan	1	0	0	1
North Korea	1	0	0	1
Georgia	1	0	0	1
Indonesia	1	0	0	1
Mexico	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1
Latvia	1	0	0	1
Moldova	1	0	0	1
Chile	1	0	0	1
Lithuania	1	0	0	1
Belgium	1	0	0	1
Portugal	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1
Bahamas	1	0	0	1
Spain	1	0	0	1
Finland	1	0	0	1
Ukraine	1	0	0	1
Montenegro	1	0	0	1
Nigeria	1	0	0	1
Dominican Republic	1	0	0	1
Cape Verde	1	0	0	1
Ukraine	1	0	0	1
Ireland	1	0	0	1
United Arab Emirates	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong	1	0	0	1
Paraguay	1	0	0	1
Colombia	1	0	0	1
Eritrea	1	0	0	1
Mongolia	1	0	0	1
Syria	1	0	0	1
Tajikistan and Togo	1	0	0	1

tion from Asia and the former Soviet republics. Yet the U.S. gold medal total of 35 was the lowest since the Montreal Olympics in 1976.

"It's more and more difficult, as time goes on, for U.S. athletes to gain a spot on the podium," Scherr said.

Australia finished with 49 medals and 17 golds, a remarkable performance in two respects.

Avoiding a traditional falloff, it became the first nation ever to increase its gold medal total four years after hosting the Summer Games. Australia won 16 golds in Sydney.

Also, Australia joined Cuba as the major Olympic nations winning the most medals per capita in Athens. With a population of 20 million, Australia won a medal for every 408,000 people. Cuba won 27 medals, one for every 418,000 of its 11.3 million citizens.

One little country outdid them: The Bahamas, population 300,000, won two medals.

India had the worst ratio among medal winners — just one, a silver in shooting, for its 1.3 billion people. Populous countries winning no medals included Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Seventy-five of the 202 countries competing in Athens won at least one medal. That's not a record; 80 won medals in Sydney.

Countries claiming their first-ever gold medals included Taiwan in taekwondo, the Dominican Republic in men's 400-meter hurdles, Chile in tennis and Georgia in judo. Windsurfer Gal Fridman won Israel's first gold and Ahmed Al Maktoum, a wealthy sheik, won the United Arab Emirates' first gold, in trap shooting.

Paraguay, without any medal in nine previous Summer Games, won a silver courtesy of its men's soccer team. Zersenay Tadese won bronze in the 10,000 meters for Eritrea, its first medal since gaining independence from Ethiopia in 1993.

Ethiopia and Kenya led Africa with seven medals each. The continent as a whole won 35, the same as in Sydney. South American nations won 23 medals, up from 19 in Sydney.

SPORTS



Top-ranked Southern Cal
outplays Virginia Tech in
tough opening test, Page 24

Athens rose to challenge



Fireworks explode during the closing ceremony for the 2004 Olympic Games at the Olympic stadium in Athens on Sunday.

Greece takes a bow as Games wrap up

Etharisto! A nervous world learned the Greek word for thank you and repeated it endlessly at an astonishingly successful Athens Olympics that quelled fears, surprised skeptics and greatly honored the birthplace of the Games.

Etharisto, Athens, for architectural masterpieces of stadiums and arenas that showcased record performances. The fountain sprays, reflecting pools and soaring arches. The undulating, giant white Wall of Nations that caught the whispering wind, bringing music to our ears and smiles to our faces.

Etharisto for the thousands of security forces who stood guard day and night, keeping terrorism away. An undercurrent of danger, a sense of tranquility. We saw guns every-

where, walked in peace.

Fireworks and spectacular lighting kicked off the closing ceremony Sunday night, a two-hour extravaganza of folk dancing and music in the Olympic tradition that summed up the glee and relief the Games brought to Greece. Afterward, thousands of athletes marched into Olympic stadium, waving their arms and flags, snapping photos of each other, hugging, and basking in the cheers of 70,000 fans.

A full moon lit up the sky, adding an extra sparkle to the night. Not quite as high above the celebration was the white security blimp, keeping a watchful eye on all the action — as it did throughout the Games.

Steve Wilstein



ATHENS, Greece

**“The world discovered
a new Greece.”**

Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki
Athens 2004 president

“You have won,” International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge told the Greek people, who responded with a roar. “You have won by brilliantly meeting the tough challenge of holding the Games. These were unforgettable, dream Games.”

He was right, even if they started slowly the first week with empty seats and vacant plazas as many Greeks took their holidays and frightened tourists stayed away. The second week saw the Games transformed. The huge Olympic stadium was packed each night for track and field. Basketball, tennis and beach volleyball rocked.

There had been no shortage of worries that Athens would not be ready for these Games. As late as March 2000, the IOC considered moving the Olympics out of Greece, possibly to South Korea.

“It’s always nice to underpromise and over-deliver,” said Jim Easton, an American IOC vice president.

Athletes who finished their events parted, roaming the Plaka, Syntagma and Omnia squares. It was Greece at its rollicking best, a spirited fusion of visitors from all countries, and of all colors and ages. It reminded us again, at a time when we need all the reminding we can get, that the Olympics celebrate humanity’s highest aspirations, the universal quest for peace and the exalted qualities of body, mind and spirit that transcend cultures.

Etharisto, Athens, for coupling the ancient

with the new, putting up with years of jarring construction, spending billions beyond your budget, and giving us a glimpse of your future as a sophisticated, modern city.

“The world discovered a new Greece,” said Athens 2004 President Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, who made it all happen with her fierce determination to overcome construction delays and avoid an international humiliation.

These Games took us to their sacred origin in Olympia, the mythological home of the gods, to watch the shot put, to Marathon to stand on the spot where the race got its name.

We trod like pilgrims to a shrine up the dusty stones of the Acropolis to gaze with awe at the 2,500-year-old Parthenon. Our imaginations did the rest, letting us feel the spirit of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle; Pericles and Alexander the Great; Hippocrates and Herodotus; Euclid and Pythagoras — that brainy bunch who laid the foundation for our culture.

The scourge of sports — steroids, stimulants and other drugs — intruded but didn’t spoil the Games. A record two dozen athletes were caught, seven lost medals, and there could be more to come as the test results keep rolling in.

“Each positive test is a blessing for us because it’s eliminating the cheats and protecting the clean athletes,” Rogge said. “The more we find, the better.”

There were scandals and controversies, as always.

Greek sprint star Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou broke their countrymen’s hearts — and angered many — when they pulled out of the Games after questions over missed drug tests and a suspicious motorcycle crash the night before the opening ceremony.

SEE ATHENS ON PAGE 28

Medal count

Final leaders after 301 medal events in the 2004 Olympics, which ended Sunday, Aug. 29:

Country	G	S	B	Total
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France	11	19	13	33
Italy	10	11	11	32
South Korea	9	12	9	30
Britain	9	9	12	30



**Ward captures
lone gold medal
for U.S. boxers**

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**Marathon leader
attacked in most
bizarre incident
of Athens Games**

Page 29

